

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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The New Leisure Municipal Recreation Programmes

by

Arthur Eckley

Mr. Arthur P. Eckley, Director, Municipal Department of Recreation, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, delivered a paper at the annual convention of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities at Manitowoc at the end of September. His approach to the problem of leisure was impressive, and we are privileged to be able to reproduce a summary of his paper. Two Rivers is located in Eastern Wisconsin on Lake Michigan, it has a population of 10,082, and there is nothing in this country quite like Mr. Eckley's post.

THE topic that has been assigned to me this morning involves two points for discussion. First, is there a new leisure, and second, if so, what can and should municipal administrators do about it? There is a certain irony in using the word leisure to-day, because of the fact that the leisure of thousands of people is enforced leisure through inability to secure employment. The leisure that I am going to discuss this morning is not the leisure of unemployment, but rather the leisure of all our people, employed and unemployed. We are all familiar with the fact that almost every workman to-day is spending less time at his regular occupation. This reduction of our working hours has released a vast amount of free time to the masses. This free time is what I like to use as the explanation of the new leisure.

Need for Leisure Consumption

The aim of mankind has been to acquire enough of all the world's goods to permit the individual to retire from work and pursue a life of luxury. Those who succeeded became known as the leisure class. Now that rich and poor alike have an increased amount of leisure, a new problem has presented itself.

Leisure has always been associated with idleness. I wonder if this is rightly so? Leisure is closely connected with a high state of civilisation. Many of the greatest contributions to civilisation have been the product of well-used leisure. Many of our great inventions have been the result of the workman at play. Our great works of art have not all been the product of hands busy at regular employment. The human voice never produced music until there was time and opportunity to play with the voice. We see, therefore, that leisure has made its mark on our civilisation, and that it can be a force for good. We also know

that leisure can be a great evil. It involves vast opportunities and responsibilities. History gives us evidence that other civilisations have not survived when faced with the leisure problem. We must admit that in America we are producing leisure faster than we are making provision for its consumption. The urge which encourages invention of labour-saving machinery, thus creating more leisure, is great because of its money value. The field of leisure-time consumption has not had the same stimulus.

Utilising Communal Facilities

Some thought and attention has been given to the leisure-time problem in America. Sixty-eight organisations and twenty-seven bureaux of government have tried to work out a solution. For various reasons, these organisations have hitched their wagon to the recreation star. If this problem is to be met, it must be by discovering and utilising the forces within the community. There is no community in Wisconsin that doesn't have some facility that can be used for recreational purposes. Every community has a school building that can serve as the centre of activity. In too many communities these fine centres are closed at 4 p.m. One wonders why these buildings are wired for lighting. The lighted schoolhouse has been one of the outstanding contributions in this battle for the right use of leisure. Where there are lighted schoolhouses, the people believe that an individual never gets too old to learn, never loses the desire for self-expression, through action, the hand, or the voice; never loses his desire to develop skill in activities of his own choice; never loses his love for fellowship and co-operative action which does so much to unite a community into one common group. Every community has or can acquire land for park

purposes, a place where wholesome outdoor activity may be enjoyed, the home of community celebrations, the place where rich and poor, young and old, may give vent to their desire for physical activity or enjoy the beauties of Nature. Every community has within itself undiscovered leadership which is so essential in order that the facilities of the community may be utilised to their full extent and in the best manner.

Organising Leisure

The agency in America which has done more than any other to meet the leisure-time problem is the National Recreation Association. It is an agency that is willing to come into the community free of charge to assist in surveying the situation and planning a solution. After twenty-five years of study and experience it has reached some conclusions regarding this problem which I would like to pass on to you:

(1) That in every community there should be some regularly constituted committee to be responsible for the leisure-time life of that community, its study and solution.

(2) That in every community of 8,000 or more there should be employed a person whose time shall be given in its entirety to the operation of a leisure-time programme.

(3) That one acre of park area is needed for each one hundred of the population.

(4) That one acre of children's playground is needed for each 1,500 of the population.

(5) Swimming facilities capable of serving ten per cent of the population of the city in one day.

(6) One baseball diamond for each 6,000 of population or less.

(7) One public tennis court to each 2,000 persons.

It has learned that there should be a programme of physical and athletic activity for all ages; that a programme of social recreation involving activities for both sexes is necessary, that man may satisfy his hunger for fellowship; that a programme of dramatics be inaugurated to satisfy the craving for self-expression; that a programme of arts and crafts be developed for those that seek to develop expressive skill with the hands; that there be ample opportunity for people to participate in musical activities. This five-point programme will furnish activity that will go a long way in the solution of the leisure-time problem.

Problem for Municipalities Alone

This programme in the hands of all the agencies in America will just barely scratch the surface. In the hands of municipalities its efficiency will be in-

creased many fold. Municipal governments, more than all other agencies in the country to-day, are dictating the future course of American life. It is no small responsibility. Social problems will not be solved at Washington nor in Madison, but in the municipalities themselves. Your efforts in lending official status to the effort of discovering and utilising community forces in the solution of the leisure-time problem will determine whether your community will be the home of lost talents or a place in which a person can live a life as rich and rewarding as human intelligence can make it.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY

Extract from Parliamentary Debates, House of Commons, Monday, November 9, 1936, column 500.

Mr. EDE asked the Prime Minister whether it is proposed to find time during the current Session for legislation dealing with the distribution of electricity?

THE PRIME MINISTER: The Hon. Member will have noticed that a full programme of legislation is already promised for this Session, and I cannot undertake at present that it will be possible to add to it. But the Government are alive to the importance of the recommendations made by the committee for the reorganisation of the supply of electricity and have the matter closely before them.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION CONCERT and PRESENTATION OF SPORTS TROPHIES

QUEEN'S HALL, LANGHAM PLACE, W.1
(Sole Lessees—Chappell & Co., Ltd.)

Friday, 29th January, 1937, at 7-15 p.m.

Artists:

BOB and ALF PEARSON
WEBSTER BOOTH GLADYS RIPLEY
MARIO "HARP" LORENZI
DORIS PALMER RICHARD HASSETT
JEAN HARLEY and GEORGE BARKER
ARTHUR ASKEY PERCY WEST TAYLOR

Area and Grand Circle 2/6.
Balcony 1/6.

Applications for Tickets should be made immediately to your Branch Secretary.

Town Hall, PERCIVAL W. BOND, A.C.A.
Walthamstow, E.17. Hon. Social Secretary.

What You Think

Our Readers' Opinions

Correspondence is invited, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the views expressed by correspondents. No letter will be published unless accompanied by the name and address of the sender, but a nom de plume may be sent for publication. The Editor wishes to devote space to all the letters which he receives for publication, but he cannot do this unless correspondents will make their letters "short and sweet." He reserves to himself the right to shorten letters, so as to publish more of all rather than much of a few.

SALARIES AND SUPERANNUATION

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—It was with keen interest that I heard of the proposed Compulsory Superannuation Act, in the King's Speech. The Association is to be congratulated for all the hard work it has done for that class of municipal officer, left so long to the tender mercies and short consciences of those in temporary power. In no walk of public life has there been a greater scandal than the wanton disregard of the future of the under official, working for an authority without a superannuation scheme in force.

The municipal officers of the country are second to none, our public services the envy of the world, yet deemed by those constantly in power to be unworthy of receiving adequate remuneration for their services.

The thanks of those unfortunate members of the service are due to the Association for pushing forward a reform so long needed, and there is but one step more in the ladder of progress that the Association can make, and that is to press forward the proper grading and payment of officers in small boroughs.

Yours faithfully,
"CORONATION."

"LIGHT AND SHADE"

To the Editor LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Vain indeed are the ideals of the reformers who deceive themselves, and equally vain those who choose to ignore the obvious.

This "movement" referred to attempts to deceive no one, and those who cherish it, labour for it, and unrewarded give so many hours to its furtherance, sustain no illusions as to its adherents.

Is it not expressive of human nature that a man of known opinion and faithful service will be favoured in the eyes of his associates whereas his politically indifferent brother officer will continue unnoticed?

Admirable the sentiments of Mr. Morrison may be; desirable the equality of opportunity; but how recent, how pitifully recent, has some measure of equality of opportunity been accorded to the sons of the movement?

When your ideals have achieved unjudged opportunity of entry into the diplomatic corps, the consular service, and the "plums" of administration, I am sure the "movement" will concede equality of opportunity for that much coveted office the rate-collector.

Yours faithfully,
SIDNEY BARNES.

Lychgate House,
The Ridgeway,
Harold Wood,
Essex.
November 10, 1936.

PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE CALL FOR TESTIMONIALS

To the Editor, LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

SIR,—Every week sees the municipal press calling for candidates for vacancies in the local government service. The advertisements invariably indicate the necessity for the submission of three testimonials of recent date.

It may be assumed that at least two thirds of the applicants never hear another word regarding the vacant appointment, yet they have had to obtain and provide testimonials of no value except that of personal gratification.

In the civil service and the business community, inquiry is made of references in the case of candidates who reach the "short list" stage, and the answers received are of much more value than the open testimonial, while the time of a large number of persons has been saved.

The practice in the local government service may be traditional, but to-day it is antiquated and unbusinesslike and is not in keeping with the progressive outlook usually associated with the gentlemen above whose names the advertisements now appear.

In brief, why not ask for the names of persons to whom inquiry may be made, if necessary, rather than call for testimonials which for the most part are valueless?

The guiding factor is the suitability of the candidate as disclosed by his application rather than the testimony of his friends.

Yours faithfully,
R. MORGAN.

THE POSITION OF THE UNCERTIFICATED OFFICER

SIR,—Why is it necessary for the uncertificated officer of long service and experience (15 to 16 years) now to obtain the relieving officers' certificate before he can get promotion either from relief clerk to assistant relieving officer or assistant relieving officer to relieving officer?

There is no reason for the transferred officer of long service without the certificate and very little chance of now obtaining it to be penalised to this extent, especially as he has always had a pretty rough deal what with the intensive and rough time experienced in 1921, "the big strike," and lastly the "transitional work," for none of which extra work was he compensated.

Certification for the new entrants—yes, by all means; but not for the experienced officer of over ten years' service, who has proved by loyal and conscientious work that he is eligible for promotion.

Yours faithfully,
"KNOCKED OUT."

Literary Contributions Required

WE are very glad to report that the Isle of Thanet Branch has undertaken the production of "Beano, 1937" in aid of the B. & O. Fund. A publication committee has been formed, with W. P. Alexander, Ph.D., Ed.B., M.A., B.Sc., the director of education for Margate, as honorary editor, and the preliminaries are well in hand. As in previous years, the committee appeals for contributions from N.A.L.G.O. members, and is offering prizes for entries in the following sections. A new section which should appeal to all members is that asking for true anecdotes of local government service. Everyone has some contribution that can be sent under this heading. "Beano" has become an institution amongst N.A.L.G.O. members, and a study of the following sections will prove of more than ordinary interest:

(a) Best humorous drawing (pen-and-ink or brushwork). First prize, three guineas; second prize, two guineas; five consolation prizes of half-a-guinea each.

(b) Best humorous article (not exceeding 1,000 words). First prize, three guineas; second prize, two guineas; five consolation prizes of half-a-guinea each.

(c) Best humorous poem. First prize, two guineas; five consolation prizes of half-a-guinea each.

(d) Best article on any subject (not exceeding 1,000 words). First prize, five

"Beano, 1937"

guineas; second prize, three guineas; ten consolation prizes of half-a-guinea each.

(e) True humorous or interesting anecdote (preferably in relation to local government service). For every true story pub-



lished under this heading a prize of half-a-guinea will be awarded. Contributions must not exceed 200 words. In addition, we offer one prize of two guineas for the best story under this heading

Conditions of Entry

(1) The editor's decision is final, and all rights of publication of any entry are reserved.

(2) There are no entrance fees.

(3) Each competitor must be a member of N.A.L.G.O. Winning entries will be published anonymously or under a nom de plume if requested, but the entrant's department and branch must be stated with each entry. Unpublished contributions will be returned to any entrant who encloses a stamped, addressed envelope for the purpose.

(4) Any number of entries may be made by one person in any or all competitions. Entries for each section (a) to (e) must be sent in a separate envelope.

(5) All drawings and photographs must bear the competitor's name and address on the reverse side.

(6) No entries received later than December 12 can be accepted.

(7) All entries must be clearly marked "BEANO COMPETITION" on the envelope, together with the class letter of the competition, and sent to the Honorary Editor, "Beano," 11, Cecil Square, Margate, before December 12, 1936.

Nottingham Branch Secretary Relinquishes Office

JOHN PEPPER has just retired from the position of honorary secretary of the Nottingham Branch, after serving in that capacity for seventeen years. Joining the corporation in 1911, at eighteen years of age, he became a member of N.A.L.G.O. immediately, and took over the honorary secretaryship of the local magazine—*The Public Officer*—in the following year. He relinquished this office just prior to joining the Army, and took over the secretaryship of the Nottingham Branch in October, 1919, his first duty being to organise a dinner to welcome the return of the ex-Service men. During his secretaryship he has attended over 500 meetings out of 550.

The membership of the branch in 1919 was 551, which then included officers of the Nottinghamshire County Council, who have now their own branch. The membership of the National Association was over 40,000 at the time. Each year, without exception, the membership of the Nottingham Branch has steadily grown, and this year it stands at approximately 1,000.

During his term of office the branch was the first to produce, and the local authority to adopt, a grading scheme for the whole of the technical, administrative, and clerical staffs. The scheme was based on the original scheme prepared by the National Association. The staff have also been granted increases in holidays, officials holding senior posts being awarded three weeks, whilst other officials with twenty years' local government service are granted fifteen working days. Other officials in receipt of a salary of £300 per annum are also granted fifteen working days.

The branch has also obtained overtime rates for the staffs, namely, time-and-quarter for the first two hours, time-and-half afterwards, with double time on Sunday. The office hours have been reduced from 1 p.m. to 12.30 p.m., on Saturdays.

Superannuation was adopted by the local authority in 1929, and those officials who retired consequent upon the inauguration of the scheme have been dealt with generously by the corporation. Mr. Pepper has attended every annual conference since taking over the office, with the exception of the one held at Hastings, when an important official opening of the council



MR. JOHN PEPPER

house by the then Prince of Wales (now H.M. King Edward VIII) prevented his attendance.

He has been a member of the district committee since 1919, and has never missed a meeting. He took over the honorary secretaryship of the East Midland District Committee in January, 1924. In addition, he has been a member of the Regional B. and O. Committee for the past few years, and is now chairman of that committee, and a member of the management committee.

John Pepper is a member of the Approved, Provident, and Building Societies, and a life member of the B. and O. Fund, has been for nearly twenty years an active member of the local N.A.L.G.O. Swimming Club, and has served on its committee for many years. He is a founder of the Nottingham N.A.L.G.O. Golfing Society, and was instrumental in obtaining the gifts of the first two cups for competition amongst its members. He has been captain of the society for the past two years.

The Nottingham Branch is the eighth largest of the Association. Its membership of the Approved Society is the fifth largest. The branch has contributed nearly £2,000 to the B. and O. Fund. In all its activities it holds a high place in the National Association, so far as percentage of membership goes.

The eminence to which the Nottingham Branch has attained is in no small measure due to the initiative, ability, and energy which Mr. Pepper has displayed during his long period of service as honorary secretary of the branch. His retirement means that the Association is losing one of its best branch secretaries, and we are desirous of identifying ourselves with the many tributes which are being paid to him now that he is relinquishing office.

Local Government Finance

Expenditure on local social services creates more controversy than any other phase of local government, and it is very often difficult for the "layman" to have at his finger-tips data which will be "understood of the people." In addition to this, there has been very little, if any, attempt made to measure the effect of the 1931 crisis upon local expenditure, chiefly because of the time lag between expenditures and the publication of co-ordinated returns.

For these reasons, if for no others, the editor of the "Midland Bank Monthly Review" has performed a public service in publishing in the current issue of that journal an analysis of expenditure of local authorities from 1931 to 1934, which is the latest date for which figures are available, and we are indebted to him for his kindness in allowing us to reproduce extracts from that article.

THE effects of the economies in public expenditure which followed the events of 1931 are only now clearly to be seen in comprehensive statistics relating to local government finance. This is due, not to delay in effecting economies, but to the long period that elapses before co-ordinated returns are published. Figures now available, however, make clear the trend of recent years. Prior to 1931 the local authorities, in coping with the new standards of living—better education, housing and various other amenities—were spending sums which mounted up in total year by year until the peak was reached in the twelve months to March, 1932. For that period current outgoings of the "rate fund services," that is expenditure met out of local taxation and similar revenues, amounted for England and Wales alone to the unprecedented total of £320 millions; the current cost of "trading services," met from the corresponding receipts, was £115 millions; while fresh outlays on capital account reached nearly £117 millions, the net debt outstanding being raised to £1,265 millions. All these figures, with details and comparisons, will be found in the tables which follow, and it will be observed that in subsequent years capital expenditure, more especially, suffered a heavy reduction from the level of 1931-2.

The important part played by the local authorities in British public finance is perhaps not fully realised. Although every householder must feel in one way or another the trend of the rates in his own particular locality, and derives direct and indirect benefits from the services they help to maintain, the aggregate scope of operations is rarely brought to his notice. It should be sufficient here to remark that the local authorities of the United Kingdom raise and expend an annual sum roughly three-fifths as large as the central government itself, with all its external obligations, for defence and other purposes, and its proportionately much heavier debt. The relatively slight interest taken in local government finance as a whole may be due in part to the small amount of publicity it receives, in comparison with imperial finance, both in Parliament and in the press. Summarised accounts of the operations of the Exchequer are published weekly, while the full year's statement is available to the public on the first day of a new financial year. Further, the complete audited returns for each financial year are given in the annual "finance accounts,"

issued only a few months later. The position, moreover, is wide open for debate, in general terms or on particular points, in the many days devoted to Parliamentary discussion, at all stages, of the annual finance bill. Compared with these arrangements, local government finance is at a disadvantage, much of which is inherent in the plurality and complex inter-relationships of the authorities involved. In all, there are more than 11,000 local authorities in England and Wales alone. No general statement of their past or prospective income and expenditure is presented in Parliament.

The most recent complete record is contained in Part III of the "annual local taxation returns" for the year to March 31, 1934, and this volume was published only in July, 1936. Thus our knowledge of the condition of local finance in general is already more than two years out of date, and will not be supplemented for nearly another year to come. The only qualification to this remark lies in the fact that the "financial statement" laid before the House of Commons at the time of the Budget speech contains a note of the estimated amount collected from rates by the local authorities in the previous year.

To revert to the figures now available, these show that, while in the aggregate the current revenue for 1933-4 was at about the same level as two years earlier, a decline had occurred in the amounts received from government grants, this having been neutralised by larger income from sources other than public rates. Current expenditure, too, while showing little change in total, displayed interesting movements in individual groups; public health, housing and town planning, and poor relief each called for sums larger than in any previous year, while declines were recorded for education, miscellaneous services and, more especially, for maintenance of highways and bridges.

When to the figures quoted are added those for trading services, which account for more than one-fourth of the whole, the receipts of English and Welsh local authorities in 1933-4 aggregate no less than £446½ millions, and against this are set expenditures of £433½ millions. With the growth of debt arising from increasing obligations, fuller provision has had to be made for interest and sinking fund charges, until in 1933-4 the amount allocated in the current expenditure for these combined purposes for the first time exceeded

£100 millions, about three-fifths being for interest. It is, however, noteworthy that the upward trend in the charge for interest alone appears to have been arrested in 1933-4. Deducting debt service charges from the total, the outgoings on current account are found to have been about £7 millions lower in 1933-4 than in the peak year, the decline being attributable entirely to reduction of services paid for out of rates and special funds. Incidentally 13 per cent and 7½ per cent of the total expenditure on rate and special fund services went to interest charges and sinking funds respectively, whereas the corresponding proportions for expenditure on trading services were 17 and 14 per cent. A four-years' comparison of current receipts and expenditure is given in the following table, which, besides showing the figures under the main headings, provides an analysis distinguishing interest and sinking funds from other expenditure.

Current receipts and expenditure of local authorities in England and Wales (£000 omitted)

	Year to March 31—			
	1931	1932	1933	1934
REVENUE:				
Public rates ...	149,896	148,280	146,294	146,554
Government grants ...	130,159	126,550	126,532	121,617
Housing, town planning etc. ...	24,176	25,918	27,228	28,105
Miscellaneous ...	33,038	32,945	33,708	34,030
Total ...	337,269	333,693	327,762	332,306
Trading services ...	111,863	113,067	113,887	114,332
Grand total ...	449,132	446,760	441,649	446,638
EXPENDITURE:				
Education ...	88,827	87,277	84,813	85,675
Public health ...	53,195	55,829	57,072	59,297
Housing, town planning, etc. ...	40,124	42,288	43,915	44,923
Highways, bridges, etc. ...	54,889	54,327	48,982	48,442
Poor relief ...	32,009	30,443	32,682	33,891
Miscellaneous ...	50,955	50,939	47,444	45,995
Total ...	319,099	320,203	314,908	318,223
Trading services ...	113,605	114,816	115,412	115,002
Grand total ...	432,704	435,019	430,320	433,225
Interest included above:				
Non-trading services ...	39,024	40,365	42,039	41,908
Trading services ...	19,429	19,741	20,159	19,437
	58,453	60,106	62,198	61,345
Loan repayment included above:				
Non-trading services ...	20,667	20,929	22,288	23,194
Trading services ...	13,931	15,149	15,593	15,951
	34,598	36,078	37,791	39,145
Total loan charges ...	93,051	96,184	99,989	100,490
Other expenditure ...	339,653	338,835	330,331	332,735

The effect of the conditions ruling in 1931 and in the years of economy which immediately followed is more apparent in the next statement, showing among other things the latest recorded movements of capital expenditure. By reason of the necessity of completing works already well advanced, the outgoings excluding sinking fund allocations reached almost £110 millions in 1931-2. Two years later the figure had declined to about £70 millions, the diminution falling mainly under the headings of housing and town planning, highways and bridges, and education and public health. As for trading services, in which also less was invested, more than one-half of the outlay in 1933-4 was, as in earlier years, for the furtherance of municipal interests in electricity undertakings. Since 1933-4, to judge from statistics of borrowings approved by the Ministry of Health, a substantial re-expansion of capital expenditure has taken place.

Capital operations of local authorities in
England and Wales (£000 omitted)

	Year to March 31			
	1931	1932	1933	1934
MONEY RAISED:				
Loans ...	100,014	92,378	80,849	62,843
Government grants ...	7,133	7,609	4,785	3,568
Sales and miscellaneous ...	0,809	9,564	0,860	10,857*
Total ...	116,965	109,751	95,494	77,268*
MONEY SPENT:				
Education ...	8,062	10,175	5,919	4,076
Public health ...	12,651	14,685	12,736	9,593
Housing, town planning, etc. ...	37,984	40,081	28,548	30,999
Highways, bridges, etc. ...	20,563	20,866	11,928	10,244
Miscellaneous ...	4,851	4,374	5,012	4,393
Non-trading services ...	84,111	90,181	64,143	59,305
Water ...	4,949	5,517	4,165	3,709
Electricity ...	14,275	13,622	10,864	11,446
Miscellaneous ...	7,545	7,456	5,582	5,433
Trading services ...	26,769	26,595	20,611	20,588*
Total expenditure ...	110,880	116,776	84,754	79,937*
Loan repayment included above ...	7,722	7,060	7,896	9,158*
Other expenditure ...	103,158	109,716	76,858	70,775

* Excludes £9,396,000 received from the London Passenger Transport Board for tramways and applied to sinking funds or debt repayment.

The result of all the operations so far summarised was to bring the gross debt of the local authorities to no less than £1,404 millions at the end of March, 1934, but, allowing for accumulated sinking funds not yet actually applied to debt reduction, the net debt was £1,306 millions.

As a side-note to the table, it may be observed that the total of about £1,500 millions, arrived at after adding rough estimates for Scotland and Northern Ireland, compares with about £8,000 millions of national debt. The fact that the amount of the municipal debt does not bear a higher proportion to the national debt is due not only to the broader responsibilities of the central government, but also to the regular and relatively substantial annual provision made by the local authorities for redemption. Most of their debt, moreover, has been incurred for the acquisition of tangible assets, the value of which probably far exceeds their book value. For this reason alone no one can fail to be impressed by the wisdom and restraint with which municipal finance is managed under a vast number of separate bodies working in almost complete independence of each other. To make this indubitable observation is in no way to belittle the desirability of prompter dissemination of data and wider consideration thereof than has been found practicable hitherto. Occasional discussion in Parliament of the general trends of local government finance would be well worth while in view of the importance of the subject and the small amount of public thought devoted to it. But discussion, whether in Parliament or elsewhere, could hardly be profitable unless it proceeded upon a basis of fact somewhat less than two to three years old. To provide this basis is a task for the ingenuity of a skilled and assiduous administrative service.

Net loan debt of local authorities in
England and Wales (£000 omitted)

	March 31			
	1931	1932	1933	1934
Education ...	58,331	64,026	67,276	67,811
Public health ...	100,366	109,090	116,660	120,485
Housing, town planning, etc. ...	484,295	507,885	523,629	534,212
Highways, bridges, etc. ...	99,174	101,907	101,385	100,408
Miscellaneous ...	37,195	38,049	41,624	42,645
Rate fund services ...	779,361	820,957	851,074	865,561
Water ...	156,748	158,946	159,665	159,309
Gas ...	23,987	23,516	22,863	22,099
Electricity ...	109,257	115,182	120,275	123,092
Tramways, etc. ...	34,237	31,762	29,897	18,771
Harbours, docks ...	95,154	96,233	97,170	97,597
Miscellaneous ...	18,634	19,095	19,374	19,564
Trading services ...	436,017	444,739	449,250	440,432
Grand total ...	1,215,378	1,265,696	1,300,324	1,305,993

Death of Sir Homewood Crawford

We deeply regret to record the death, on Tuesday, November 17 last, of Sir Homewood Crawford, C.V.O., at the age of 86. Sir Homewood was president of the Association from 1907 to 1924, chairman of the National Council, 1910, trustee from 1916 to 1918, and was thus closely connected with the work of the Association from its commencement in 1905 until he retired from the local government service in 1924. He had then completed nearly 40 years as solicitor to the City of London Corporation.

Born on June 12, 1850, he was admitted a solicitor in 1872 and practised in Cannon Street. From 1875 to 1880, and again in 1884 and 1885, he served as Under-Sheriff of London and Middlesex, and in 1885 he was elected to the ancient office of City Solicitor. In 1893, when the Liberal Government appointed a Royal Commission, of which Lord Courtney was chairman, to effect the unification of London, the City Corporation selected Sir Homewood as its representative, but he retired during the investigation as a protest against what he considered the one-sided attitude, antagonistic to the City, which his brother Commissioners had exhibited. The Commission came to nothing in the end. Later his experience and advice materially helped in the creation of the various London boroughs which was the very opposite of the project on which the London County Council had set its heart, and in favour of which the majority of the Royal Commissioners had reported.

He was the first Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company. As Master of the Glovers' Company he was active in securing the Inexpimus Charter granted by Queen

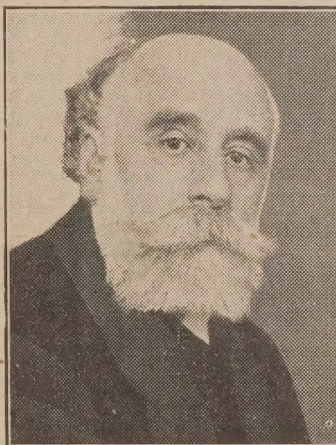
Victoria and the return of the Company's plate, which had been wrongly handed over to the Crown. He was a member of the Council of the Law Society for fifteen years.

He was an excellent amateur actor and no mean musician. Some of his musical pieces were played at Guildhall and the Mansion House, and his hymns were frequently sung in the City Churches. He was a member of the executive of the Patron's Fund of the R.C.M. In charitable work he was a governor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and a vice-president of St. Mark's Hospital, honorary solicitor to the King Edward Memorial Fund and to the City branch of the British Red Cross. He was

chairman of the British Association for Physical Training, and a past president of the Guildhall Cricket and Athletic Club and of the London Municipalities Football Club. Sir Homewood, who had been knighted in 1900 and created a C.V.O. in the New Year honours of 1924, retired

from the post of City Solicitor in the following June, and was granted the maximum pension. He married, in 1874, Louisa, only daughter of the late Sir Francis Wyatt Truscott, who was Lord Mayor in 1880, and sister of Sir George Wyatt Truscott, Bt., who was Lord Mayor in 1908. Lady Crawford died in July, 1933. They had no children.

At the funeral, which took place on Friday, November 20, the Association was represented by the president and honorary secretary of the Carshalton Branch, Mr. J. H. Wright, clerk of the council, and Mr. C. H. Durrant. A floral tribute was also sent in the name of the President and members of the Association.



SOCIAL SERVICE

The following correspondence has passed between Mr. John Lowther, private secretary to H.R.H. the Duke of Kent, and Mr. Ewart Llewellyn, O.B.E., chairman, central advisory committee of social service associations. These associations have contributed £40,000 towards the establishment and running of centres all over the country, through which they are helping about 50,000 people:

9, Motcomb Street, S.W.1.
October 28, 1936.

Dear Sir,—His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent has received from the National Council of Social Service a report on the growth of the social service movement amongst the staffs of the Civil Service.

His Royal Highness has watched with much interest the expansion of this work, and the establishment of seventy associations, with 31,000 members and donors, banded together to give help to those who are unemployed, and to their dependents. His Royal Highness considers this a very fine example of corporate voluntary service.

In the course of the visits which the Duke of Kent has paid to the many voluntary welfare schemes for unemployed people throughout the country, His Royal Highness has been pleased to visit a number of representatives of the various associations, and to note that the members of these associations are not only providing regular contributions, but also taking a personal interest in the people whom they seek to help.

In wishing continued success to the movement the Duke of Kent earnestly hopes that the example which has been set by the staffs of the Civil Service will be followed by an increasing interest in their fine work, and that their lead may commend itself to others who are fortunate enough to be employed.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) JOHN LOWTHER.

Ewart Llewellyn, Esq., O.B.E.

Parliament Mansions, S.W.1.

October 29, 1936.

Dear Sir,—I beg to express my deepest appreciation of the gracious good wishes of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent conveyed in your letter of the 28th instant to the staffs of the Civil Service who are voluntarily contributing, through their Social Service Associations, towards the amelioration of the lot of the unemployed in the distressed areas.

The personal interest thus shown by His Royal Highness will, I am certain, be an incentive to yet further increased effort on the part of the very large number of voluntary helpers who are busy collecting help and organising the many welfare centres for which Civil Servants have made themselves responsible.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) EWART LLEWELLYN.

John Lowther, Esq.,
9, Motcomb Street, S.W.1.

ERRATUM

On page 639 of the November issue, in reporting the retirement of Mr. E. T. Pearson, we stated that from 1891 to 1902, he had held the appointments of clerk to the guardians and rural district council at Kettering, clerk to the Desborough Urban District Council and superintendent registrar.

We have since been informed that our information was incorrect and that Mr. Charles William Lane held these appointments until his death, in 1914. We hasten to apologise to the relatives of the late Mr. Lane and trust that they have not been seriously inconvenienced by our publishing an incorrect statement.

LIVERPOOL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Municipal life in Liverpool is criticised by the Bishop of Liverpool (Dr. David) in his *Diocesan Review*.

The Bishop writes: "It is indeed unfortunate that our corporate administration does not possess a better reputation. Political backbiting and personal ineptitude have produced a kind of dry rot that is slowly but surely denuding municipal life of efficiency and character. Our responsible officials are treated with a lack of consideration and courtesy that sometimes borders on scurrility. Our elected representatives seem to be more concerned to promote political or personal ends than to unite in ascertaining and fulfilling the most efficient and economical ways of meeting the common tasks."

"The efficiency and tone of the work of the corporation depends, first, upon the competence and character of the departmental chiefs. If these men are treated with disrespect, in the end they will lose self-respect, interest, and authority. Behind the departmental chief should stand the chairman of committee. If his ability and character fail to invite respect, the proceedings of the committee soon degenerate into a cat fight, and the whole principle of our municipal government falls into jeopardy. These are the two keys to a healthy municipal life; unless they are sound the body corporate is bound to be diseased. Can we arrest the present drift to decay? If not, it is certain that sooner or later our system of municipal government in Liverpool will break down and another will have to be devised in its place."

(Times—5-11-36.)

Holiday Centres and Cruise

RE-UNION

NOTE THE DATES

LONDON

Saturday, February 13, 1937,
at Harrods, Knightsbridge
7-12 p.m.

LEEDS

Friday, February 26, 1937,
at the Town Hall, Leeds
8 p.m.—1 a.m.

Tickets 2/6

Obtainable from: N.A.L.G.O.
24, Abingdon St., Westminster, S.W.1

We Wish You—

It is, perhaps, somewhat early to be sending Christmas messages, but as we shall not have another opportunity before the festive season of conveying our greetings to those who have rewarded our efforts by reading the pages of this journal, to those who have displayed a deeper interest in LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE by contributing articles, letters, and news paragraphs for publication—even if, owing to pressure of space, we have had to reject them—and to the very few members who, with a superior air, have confined N.A.L.G.O.'s journal to the wastepaper basket without troubling even to flick over the pages, to all these people we say, in the true spirit of Christmas, the time of peace on earth to men of good will,

—A Very Merry Christmas

"RECREATIONS"

SPORT

Home and away football matches between the Bolton and District and the Lancaster Branches have been arranged during the present season, and the first of them took place at Bolton on November 7, 1936. Despite adverse weather conditions, a clean, interesting game was witnessed, Lancaster winning by two goals to nil. After the match, at the invitation of the Bolton and District Branch, the Lancaster team were entertained to a hot pot supper at the Victoria Hotel, Bolton.

DRAMATIC

The Sheffield Transport Dramatic Society is producing a comedy, "Bees and Honey," by H. F. Maltby, in the Y.M.C.A. Lecture Hall, Sheffield, on December 18 and 19, 1936, at 7.30 p.m. The prices of admission will be 1s. 3d. and 1s. 9d. Further details and tickets may be obtained from business manager, J. R. Nodder, Sheffield Transport Department, Division Street, Sheffield 1.

N.A.L.G.O. RIFLE CLUBS

Here are results of competitions up to date:

The "Bingham" Shield (the All Black).
20 shots at 25 yards. Possible, 200.

Best six scores.

Winner:	Score
C. C. Coffin, Bournemouth,	200.
2: G. Still, Southampton,	198.
3: J. G. Iroma, Manchester,	197.
4: J. Hustler, Leeds,	197.
5: S. J. Stott, Leeds,	195.
6: T. Moody, Southampton,	195.

The First President's Trophy: "Rose Bowl."

Final Stage.

	Gun score	H'cap	Final score
Winner: J. G. Irvine, Manchester	296	95.00	298.00
Runner-up: C. C. Coffin, Bournemouth	297	scr.	297.00
Third: H. Stanton, Sheffield	295	96.5	296.66

The "Mappin" Shield.

Leeds	Sheffield
J. Hill 99	D. Parkin ... 100
S. J. Stott ... 99	H. Stenton ... 99
J. Hustler ... 98	R. B. Shaw ... 97
K. Howell ... 98	Miss Cuthbert ... 95
394	391

Southampton	Manchester
G. Still ... 99	F. T. Dunmore 98
T. Moody ... 98	J. G. Irvine ... 98
W. Braxton ... 97	S. Armitage ... 97
A. Othen ... 96	H. Etchells ... 95
390	388

The Sir Charles Behren Cup.

	Shot	Won	Lost	Drn.	Pts.
Leeds	6	5	1	—	10
Southampton	6	5	1	—	10
Sheffield	6	2	4	—	4
Manchester	6	0	6	—	0

First tie shoot: Leeds, 396; Southampton 391 + 5 = 396.

Second tie shoot: Southampton, 388 + 5 = 393; Leeds (scr.), 390.

Southampton winners of the Cup.

At Random
By "HYPERION"

IF YOU WANT WORK WELL DONE, SELECT A BUSY MAN—THE OTHER
KIND HAS NO TIME.—ELBERT HUBBARD.

Lectures on Civics

The Sheffield Library Committee and Adult Education Joint Committees are to be congratulated on arranging for the delivery of a series of lectures on Civics. Commenting on these arrangements on November 2, the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* wrote:

"It is perhaps an interesting coincidence that we should be discussing a series of lectures on 'Civics' the day following an election in connection with which 55 per cent of the electors refused to interest themselves in the matter one way or the other. Quite apart from any Party considerations, it must be a matter of some disquiet to thoughtful observers that the bulk of the people apparently do not care under what form of government they live."

Miniature Anthology on Liberty

Man, said Rousseau, is born free, but is everywhere in chains. It would be nearer the truth to say, "Man is born in chains, but is everywhere struggling to be free."
—L. T. Hobhouse—"The Elements of Social Justice."

O Liberty! how many crimes are committed in thy name.
—Madame Roland.

Great thing, liberty all over England, right bang through, everywhere, always, oh yes—except when not.
—Lytton Strachey—"Bonga-Bonga in Whitehall."

I cannot get beyond this: every man has the right to utter what he believes to be the truth, and every other man has the right to knock him down for it.
—Dr. Johnson.

I would gladly sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, not only a part of the constitution, but the whole of it, to preserve the remainder.
—Sir Boyle Roche—Irish soldier and politician, famous for his "bulls."

Those who would give up liberty for the sake of a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.
—Benjamin Franklin.

The sun of liberty is set; you must light up the candle of industry and economy.
—ibid.

"What do you mean by being free?" I asked.
He scowled at me suspiciously.

"What d'ye mean by being free?"
"I asked you," I said.
"Not being messed about," he answered. "That's what I mean. Not being messed about!"
"Who by?" I ventured.
"Government," he said. And then, after a pause, catching sight of the policeman's back: "And coppers."
—Frank Birch—in "The Listener."

Yorkshire v. Derbyshire

The couplet,
*Derbyshire born, Derbyshire bred,
Strong in the arm, weak in the head*
is frequently used in Yorkshire to the detriment of its neighbouring county, and has a meaning quite different from the popularly accepted one.

The second line, in the original version, is "Strong i' the arm, an' wick i' th' head."
In Chambers's Dictionary, the meaning of the word "wick" is "quick, alive, a lively person." Even in Yorkshire a flea is described as a "wick 'un" because of its liveliness.

Dwellers in Derbyshire may be pleased to know that the object of the couplet was to extol rather than to disparage the keenness of their intellects.

Which reminds me of a Yorkshire story. A man met a friend who was looking very depressed. "What's up, lad?" he said. "Well, tha knows, Ah've buried ma wife last week, and Ah'm still feeling a bit lonely like." "Cheer up, lad," his friend replied. "Tha can 'ave ma wick 'un for tha dead 'un, and Ah'll pay all t' funeral expenses."

Which again reminds me of the old proverb: "Marry in haste and where will you find the leisure to repent in?"

Answer to Last Month's Election Problem

First Candidate: 2,914 votes.
Second Candidate: 2,606 votes.

Tail-piece

Meanwhile, if any of you are perplexed about Christmas presents, I hope you will bear in mind *Speaking After Dinner*, in which some of the less ephemeral paragraphs of this column have been gathered together and published in book form. The "happy event" took place on November 10. Baby and proud father both doing as well as can be expected.

Sir Seymour Hicks, wittiest of after-dinner speakers, has been kind enough to praise the anthology. "This volume," he writes, "is a contribution which will not only help those who anxiously dread the coming of the port, but will be of vast entertainment to the reading public."

For which kind words I am truly grateful.

The
Ratepayer's
Money

by
ARTHUR COLLINS

"It is a thorough piece of work and answers without any fuss the question of what happens not only to the ratepayer's money but to all the money which is spent on local government . . . It is a valuable summary of the financial side of local government . . ."

*Manchester Guardian,
Town Hall Series No. 1.*

5s.

George Allen & Unwin

HOW TO TREAT A
STOMACH PAIN

When your stomach is healthy and well, you never think of its existence. But when it is out of sorts for any reason you know all about it. Pain sets in—sometimes very severe, nagging pain.

What are you to do? You certainly must do something. In nine cases out of ten the remedy is simple enough—a dose or two of Maclean Brand Stomach Powder. You must have read of case after case, many of them much worse than yours where blessed relief has come almost in a twinkling. Flatulence, heartburn, dyspepsia, even gastric and duodenal ulcers, have had to yield to the soothing and healing properties of this modern miracle worker.

It will be strange indeed if your pain does not disappear as all the others have done. Anyway, you can confidently turn to MACLEAN BRAND Stomach Powder—you can easily tell it by the signature "ALEX. C. MACLEAN" on the bottle. Thankful you will be that you took such a simple short cut to lasting stomach peace. 1/3, 2/- and 5/- per bottle, powder or tablets.

SUCCESS ASSURED

CHAMBERS COLLEGE (Founded 1885) provides the finest and most up-to-date Home Preparation Courses for Sanitary Inspection and Meat and Smoke Certificates. Also College of Preceptors (accepted as educational qualification by Joint Board), A.R.S.I., M.R.S.I., M.I.H., etc.

DOUBLE HONOURS AGAIN!!
CHAMBERS COLLEGE students were again the only candidates to secure the coveted award of Double Honours with Special Distinction in the Inst. of Hygiene Exams for both January and June, 1936. Our past record in all examinations is consistently well over 90%.

POINTS IN OUR TUTORIAL SYSTEM
Fees are inclusive of latest editions of all necessary standard Text-books (there are no hidden extras whatever); all fees may be paid by most moderate monthly instalments.

SUCCESS GUARANTEE
We definitely guarantee to get you through your exam. If we fail your complete tuition fee will be refunded. This is your complete safeguard against unsuitable and inferior tuition.
Write to-day for FREE details of the exceptional tutorial facilities offered by this Old Established but essentially Modern College.
CHAMBERS COLLEGE (Dept. 212),
335, High Holborn, W.C.1

N.A.L.G.O. (METROPOLITAN DISTRICT) OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Amateur societies come and they go, and prior to the production of "The Sport of Kings" at the King George's Hall on October 30 and 31 last, the fate of the above society was in the balance. At the conclusion of the two performances of Ian Hay's famous comedy there remained, however, no possible doubt whatsoever as to the society's future. The production was a great success—artistically, and although the same adjective cannot be used for the financial side, it was entirely satisfactory. For the first time in the short history of the society box-office receipts exceed expenses.

This satisfactory state of affairs is the outcome of the excellent and unselfish team-work by the players and officials of the society, backed by a more ready response from the branches in the Metropolitan District. It promises well for the future of these determined amateurs.

The next and fourth production is that famous and popular opera by Gilbert and Sullivan, "The Mikado," which is to be performed at the King George's Hall, Caroline Street, Great Russell Street, W.C.1. on February 17 to 20, 1937. Applications for seats have been received even at this early date, and although the booking plans are not yet open, if you are wise you will not delay in reserving your seats. A list of applications is being compiled by the honorary business manager, who will allot seats in strict order according to the date of application.

Send in your application now to W. Jno. Upton, honorary business manager, 12a, Shieldhall Street, Abbey Wood, S.E.2.

NORTH WALES SUB-DISTRICT

At the annual meeting of the North Wales Sub-District, held at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl, recently, Mr. Richard Hext, of Colwyn Bay, was presented with an inscribed oak dining table, in recognition of his ten years' service as district honorary secretary. A gold curb bracelet was presented to Mrs. Hext.

In making the presentation, Mr. J. Douglas Jones, of Rhyl, the chairman of the sub-district committee, expressed the appreciation of the district for the valued work performed by Mr. Hext on behalf of N.A.L.G.O.

EAST MIDLAND

The East Midland District Committee met at the town hall, Peterborough, on October 24. Mr. H. S. Sherwin, Nottingham, presided over the meeting in the absence of the chairman, Mr. F. B. Matthews, Lindsey County Council, and was supported by Mr. J. Chaston, clerk of the Kettering Urban District Council, Mr. A. B. Day, Nottingham, and Mr. L. E. Rumsey, clerk of the Leicestershire County Council. There was a representative attendance of members.

The District Committee approved grants to sixteen hospitals in the area, and received a report from the Regional B. and O. Committee, stating that at the meeting on September 17 the committee had made weekly grants in fifteen cases, and lump sum grants in four other cases. The committee also reported that Mr. J. J. Clist, Leicester, had resigned his membership of

District Committees

the Regional Committee. The committee unanimously resolved to express its regret at Mr. Clist's resignation and its appreciation of his splendid service as a member of the committee for the past nine years. The committee also approved the forwarding of a special appeal in the area for increased support of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

Report of N. E. C. Representatives

Mr. J. Chaston, Mr. A. B. Day, and Mr. L. E. Rumsey reported in detail on the proceedings of the National Executive Council. Mr. Chaston mentioned that the membership of the Association was increasing, and was now over 90,000; he also dealt with the recent successful summer schools and the summer schools it was hoped to arrange during 1937.

Mr. Day reported that the Building Society had loaned £2,500,000 to members; and dealt with questions of service conditions now engaging the attention of the council.

Mr. Rumsey, in reporting on the proceedings of the Law and Parliamentary Committee, paid a tribute to the great help the Association is giving officers in need of legal assistance, and stated that £1,500 had been recently expended in assisting and protecting officers.

Whitleyism

Mr. E. J. Loasby reported on a meeting of representatives of staff organisations held in Nottingham with reference to the suggested formation of a Provincial Whitley Council for the East Midland area. Mr. Loasby stated that the tone of the meeting was most encouraging, and that he felt an important step forward had been taken towards the formation of a council.

Divisional Secretary's Report

The divisional secretary reported that the Derbyshire County Council had revised the scale of salaries for male clerks on routine work, but that while the scale benefited the existing clerks, the fact that they did not at once reach their appropriate position according to age on the new scale, resulted in unfortunate anomalies among the existing staff. He also reported that he had met the Heanor Urban District Council in support of proposal for grading the officers of that council. The divisional secretary submitted a return as to the practice of local authorities in the East Midlands in regard to non-contributory service under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and also a return relating to office hours, annual leave, sickness payments, etc.

He also reported that a council had proposed to suspend compensation awarded to an officer in the area and that following the objection of the Association, it had been decided that there had been no ground for the suspension.

N.A.L.G.O. Scholarships

The district committee congratulated Mr. A. E. Reed, of the public assistance department, Derbyshire County Council, on his being awarded a N.A.L.G.O. scholarship of £30 in consequence of his success at the last examination of the Poor

Law Examinations Board for Institutional Officers. The scholarship of £30 is awarded to assist the holder to acquire a degree or diploma, including an advanced study of public administration, at any University.

Hospitality

Following the meeting, the representatives were generously entertained to tea by the Peterborough City Branch. A vote of thanks was accorded to the branch for the arrangements made, and in responding, Mr. W. T. K. Searjeant referred to the fact that the local officers had established a guild prior to the formation of N.A.L.G.O., and that Peterborough was one of the ten local guilds which met in 1905, when it was decided to establish N.A.L.G.O.

Reference was made to the appointment of Mr. G. Moncur, chairman of the executive of the Peterborough Branch, as borough engineer and surveyor at Burton-upon-Trent, and it was resolved to send hearty congratulations to Mr. Moncur on the appointment.

SOUTH-WESTERN

The quarterly meeting of the South-Western District Committee was held at the Municipal Offices, Cheltenham, on Saturday, September 26, 1936, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. J. Newman. About forty delegates were present. The deputy mayor, Mr. E. L. Ward, who welcomed the delegates to Cheltenham, expressed regret at the absence of the mayor. He referred to the great conference of N.A.L.G.O. which was held at Cheltenham during his term of office as mayor, and stated that nothing had given him greater pleasure than to receive the letters of appreciation from the president and secretary. Further, he referred to the great work which was being done by local government officers.

In returning thanks, Mr. Newman said that the welcome bore out their experience of a year ago.

The business meeting which followed dealt with the following questions:

Benevolent and Orphan Fund

It was decided to grant five guineas to each of five voluntary hospitals from the grant received from the "Help Yourself" Fund.

Thanks were tendered to Mr. S. C. Middleton in connection with his services as chairman of the Regional Committee for the past fourteen years.

Area Education Committee

It was reported that the Bristol University Course for the diploma in public administration was being attended by some thirty students, a good percentage of whom were local government officers. The following branches undertook to appoint representatives on the education sub-committee: Bristol, Bath, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, and Weston-super-Mare. The honorary secretary of the Bristol branch undertook to act as convener, and the sub-committee was given power to co-opt members from other branches if necessary.

Membership

The divisional secretary reported that the membership of the district had increased, but it did not look as though

(Continued on page 670)

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT



There is still time to arrange for the Ideal Gift to be available for presentation to your family on Christmas Day. There can be no two views on the care displayed in your choice. Your family will appreciate your desire to protect them.

Further information can be obtained from

NALGO INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1

(Continued from page 668)

the five thousand mark would be reached this year. He pointed out that the potential membership of the larger branches was still considerable.

Sports

Mr Newman, the chairman of the committee, kindly offered to provide a trophy for competition amongst football teams from branches in the district. This generous offer was accepted and the honorary secretary was asked to circulate branches with a view to ascertaining how many teams could compete for the trophy. A small committee, representing the branches which could form a team, was appointed, in order to frame the conditions of the competition.

Mr. Pratt, the motoring correspondent, reported that there were now forty-one members enrolled in the motoring association from the district.

Reunion Meeting

The honorary secretary reported that the next meeting would be the biennial reunion with the Southern District, and would be held at Southampton on December 5, 1936.

Hospitality

High tribute was paid to the wonderful hospitality extended to the District Committee by the Mayor of Cheltenham and the president and members of the Cheltenham Branch. On the Friday evening, delegates attended a dance and whist drive at the town hall. On Saturday, delegates were entertained to lunch at George's Restaurant. Mr. W. T. Long, president of the Cheltenham Branch, presided and proposed the toast of "The National Association." In proposing the toast to the Cheltenham Branch, Mr. P. H. Cole, vice-chairman of the District Committee, paid high tribute to the energetic honorary secretary of the Cheltenham Branch, Miss Bradshaw. After the luncheon delegates were taken for a tour of the Cotswolds when a halt was made for tea, kindly provided by the Mayor of Cheltenham, at Chipping Campden.

NALGO's

NORTH WALES

HOTEL

WINTER TERMS

per day **7/-**

The Hotel is practically fully booked for Christmas, and early booking is essential

For full particulars apply to—

The Manageress,

Cefn-y-Mynach Private Hotel,

College Avenue, Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay,
NORTH WALES.

ALL MANKIND'S CONCERN

Weekly Allowances

A widow, aged 59 years, left practically destitute on the death of her husband except for a pension of 10s. per week. She also has dependent upon her a daughter, aged 31 years, who is an invalid and mentally deficient. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund is making a weekly allowance in this case towards the support of the widow and her daughter.

A widow, aged 43 years, left with four children, aged 15, 12, 10, and 6 years dependent upon her. The widow's only income is £1 1s. per week widow's and orphans' pensions, and 10s. per week from her eldest child. The Fund is making a weekly allowance in this case.

A member, aged 37 years, with a wife and son, aged 8 years, dependent upon him, broke down in health during 1933 suffering from tuberculosis, and was compelled to retire from the local government service. His superannuation and national health insurance are insufficient to maintain him and the family, and the Fund is therefore making a weekly allowance in this case.

A young member, aged 27 years, having contracted tuberculosis, was advised to obtain treatment at the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, Ventnor. His salary, paid in full during the first part of his illness, was subsequently reduced by half. The Fund issued a letter of recommendation for the hospital and made an allowance towards maintenance charges.

Loan

A member, aged 28 years, with a wife and two children dependent upon him, one aged 2 years and the other only a few months, fell into debt owing to the illness of his wife. She was removed to hospital in a critical condition, where she had to undergo an operation. During the time member's wife was in hospital the elder child had to be boarded, thus incurring further expense. The Benevolent and Orphan Fund has advanced a loan in this case to help member over a difficult period.

Lump Sum Grants

A member, aged 39, whose wife has been ill over a period of six years and is continually under medical care. It has now been necessary for her to see a specialist, and his verdict is that member's wife must be admitted to hospital for treatment and an immediate operation. His case was brought to the notice of the Fund, as he was getting into financial difficulties owing to the additional expenditure, and a lump sum grant towards hospital fees has been made.

Another young member, aged 19 years, has experienced considerable trouble with his hearing, and he is now almost deaf. His local doctor recommended him to obtain a consultation with a specialist, and it was found necessary to perform a minor operation. Member resides with his mother, whose weekly income amounts to 17s. only, and he assists in supporting her. Member found that he could not afford to pay the operation fees and the Fund, therefore, made a grant in this case.

On The Turntable

ALTHOUGH the H.M.V. list of new records for November is large and attractive, popular fancy will doubtless single out the admirable new recording of "The Mikado."

Also on the lighter side are the first records from "Careless Rapture," Ivor Novello's new show at Drury Lane Theatre, with original artistes, including Ivor Novello and Dorothy Dickson. The following have been recorded: "Studio Scene" (A bit of opera) and "Why is there ever good-bye?" (H.M.V. C2858), "Music in May," and "Love Made the Song" (H.M.V. B8495), and the Drury Lane Theatre Orchestra plays a melodious selection on H.M.V. C2860. In addition there are two records of the fine Ballet Music "The Miracle of Nichaow," and "Bridge of Lovers" (H.M.V. C2862-3). Of another type is a speech from the play "Murder in the Cathedral," by Robert Speight, who takes the part of Thomas à Becket in the production. It represents à Becket's last sermon, and is tinged with the forebodings of the tragedy that was soon to follow. A very lovely piece of English, perfectly spoken (H.M.V. B8499).

Favourite artists are well represented. Peter Dawson sings "Son o' Mine," and "The Jolly Roger" (H.M.V. B8489). Derek Oldham "The Regimental Song," from "The White Eagle," and "One Day," "Bridge of Lovers" (H.M.V. C2862-3). popular radio star, records "Serenade in the Night," which bids fair to be one of the most popular song hits of the season, and "The way you look to-night," from the new Astaire-Rogers film "Swing Time" (H.M.V. 38498). There is some very good Hill Billy singing by Mac (Harry McClintock) with "In the Big Rock Candy Mountains," and by Vernon Dalhart in "The Chain Gang Song" (H.M.V. BD379).

There are plenty of new Dance records, of which we mention only a few. "Drop in next time you're passing," and "Unbelievable," played by Jack Hylton and his orchestra (H.M.V. BD5118); "Serenade in the Night," and "Miracles sometimes happen," played by Roy Fox and his orchestra (H.M.V. BD5126). "Fats" Waller and his rhythm contribute "Bye Bye Baby," and "The curse of an aching heart." Both these titles have vocal refrains, and the piano solos are by "Fats" Waller (H.M.V. BD5116). Joe Loss and his orchestra play "When the Poppies bloom again," and "Raindrops" (H.M.V. BD5124).

Two tunes from "Careless Rapture" are played by George Elliott and His Sweet Music Makers, "Music in May" and "Love Made the Song" (H.M.V. BD5121), whilst Henry Jacques and His Orchestra have recorded in correct dance Tempo "Star Dust" and "Chinatown, my Chinatown" (H.M.V. BD5100).

The Swing Music section includes an interesting recreation of a record by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. This was first issued in America in 1918, and contains "Ostrich Walk," and "Bluin' the Blues" (H.M.V. B8485).

Nalگو Building Society

Free Service for Members

Below are given details of properties for sale under the Society's Advertising Scheme.

LEEDS (Yorks). — Freehold semi-detached property, 4 bed-rooms, 2 reception-rooms, kitchen, scullery, bath, W.C., etc. Good residential area. Plot 45 ft. by 100 ft. No road charges, 2 mins. buses, 7 mins. trams. Pleasantly situated in quiet surroundings, with an open view of the Park. Price £670.—Apply Box No. HPB13, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

ABBEY WOOD (S.E.2). — Detached freehold bungalow, 4 rooms, kitchen, bath and cellar. Plot 39 ft. by 150 ft. No road charges. Good residential neighbourhood. Situated on Erith-Woolwich bus route, 10 mins. from station. Vacant possession. Price £760.—Apply Box No. HPB14, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

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BANSTEAD (Surrey). —Plot of land 90 ft. (frontage) by 200 ft. approx. Warren Road, Banstead. No road charges, 7 mins. from station, 2 mins. bus route; £5 per foot frontage.—Apply Box No. HPB16, c/o 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

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EPSOM IMPROVEMENTS

A memorandum on staff trading and improvement of staff conditions submitted by Epsom Branch has been adopted by Epsom and Ewell Urban District Council with a few amendments.

All officers, including those in the electricity and water departments, will now be graded, and the majority of the staff have obtained increases in salary. Junior officers commence at £52 per annum and rise by age to a maximum of £160 at 23. Subject to a satisfactory report, Grade B then becomes operative from that figure, rising by annual increments of £12 10s. to £210 a year.

The offices now close at 12 noon on Saturdays, instead of 1 p.m. as hitherto.

Salaries and Service Conditions

SUPERANNUATION

The following authorities have adopted schemes under the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922:

Malton U.D.C.	Appointed Day.
Startforth R.D.C.	October 1, 1936.
Osgoldcross Assess- ment Committee	October 1, 1936.
Barnsley County Borough	January 1, 1937.
Selby Urban District Council	April 1, 1937.

Selby Urban District Council has passed the first resolution by the statutory majority. The scheme now awaits the confirmation of the Council.

The divisional secretary has made a formal application for the adoption of a scheme of superannuation to the **Wath-upon-Deane** Urban District Council and the **Sedbergh** Rural District Council.

Baldon Urban District Council has decided to obtain an actuarial report.

A deputation of the North Wales Whitley Council met the combined Rural Councils of **Gwyrfaï, Lley, Ogwen and Nant Conway**, at Caernarvon, on November 11, with the object of assisting these Councils to form a joint superannuation scheme. The meeting decided unanimously to recommend the four Councils, in the first instance, to approve the principle of superannuation and to obtain an actuarial report thereon.

SALARIES

The **Conisborough** Urban District Council has adopted the West Riding Joint Provincial Council's scales of salaries for all members of the staff. The scheme will come into operation on April 1 next.

The **Northumberland** County Council has recently amended its standing orders in regard to the powers of the Council in dealing with questions relating to salaries, superannuation and service conditions of officers of the Council. These powers were formerly delegated by the County Council to the establishment committee, but in future the establishment committee will consider all matters submitted to it by the various committees relating to the status, salaries, duties and superannuation of the officers. The committee's recommendations will then be subject to confirmation or otherwise at the quarterly meetings of the Council. The establishment committee will also make recommendations regarding appointments, transfers, promotions or dismissals of the official or clerical staff.

A joint deputation consisting of representatives of the National Association of Relieving Officers and N.A.L.G.O. met the staffing committee of the **Durham** County Council on October 26 last. The National Association of Relieving Officers was represented by Mr. E. J. Bell, president of the Northumberland and Durham Branch, Mr. J. Hood, past-president of the Association, and Mr. R. Kerr, honorary secretary of the Northumberland and Durham Branch. N.A.L.G.O. was represented by the divisional secretary. Mr. Bell introduced the deputation, and the application for an increase in the maximum salaries of the relieving officers employed by the Durham County Council was submitted by the divisional secretary

and supported by Mr. Hood. Mr. Kerr also spoke and expressed thanks on behalf of the deputation for the courteous way in which they had been received.

The divisional secretary recently interviewed the finance committee of the **Birkenhead** Corporation regarding an adjustment of salary scales. The outcome is that the maximum of grade 4, which previously went to £185, has been increased to £198; and the minimum of grade 3, which commenced at £200, has been raised to £210.

The divisional secretary met the **Llan-dudno** Council on October 30 on the subject of salary scales and was successful in obtaining the permission of the sub-committee to submit, without prejudice, a model grading scheme prepared by the North Wales Whitley Council for officers.

A request has been received from the **Rhyl** U.D.C. by the North Wales Whitley Council for the preparation of a model grading scheme under the Whitley scales.

Representations have been made to the **Liverpool** Corporation with regard to provision for progression from the maximum of the general division—£200 per annum—to scale A, £215 to £260.

An application has also been made to the **Liverpool** Corporation to grade all officers receiving between £360 and £460 under the new scales provided by the Whitley Council for Lancashire and Cheshire.

WHITLEYISM

Arrangements are almost completed for the setting up of a joint conciliation committee in connection with the staffs of the **West Riding Mental Hospitals**. The committee will consist of six representatives of the West Riding Mental Hospitals Board and six members of the staff. The six seats have been allocated amongst the three staff organisations as follow:

N.A.L.G.O.	3
Mental Hospital and Institutional Workers' Union	2
Incorporated Association of Clerks and Stewards of Mental Hospitals	1

In addition, each of the three organisations will be entitled to send an official representative to the meetings of the committee in an advisory capacity, but with no voting power.

A joint meeting of chief officers of **North Wales** authorities was held at the Town Hall, Colwyn Bay, on November 12, and was addressed by Mr. T. K. Liddell, O.B.E., chief conciliation officer, Ministry of Labour, Manchester, his Worship the Mayor of Colwyn Bay, Major Alderman John Roberts, J.P. (chairman of the Whitley Council), and other speakers. The object of the meeting was to explain fully the operation of the Whitley system and the existing machinery in North Wales and to secure further support from the smaller councils.

SUSPENSION

Successful representations have recently been made by the Association in conjunction with the National Association of Cemetery and Crematorium Superintendents, affecting one of the officers who had been suspended by the **Church and Clayton-le-Moors Cemetery Board**, and an advertisement issued for a successor. It is much to the credit of the Board that it decided, after hearing all sides of the case, to continue the officer in employment until he reaches superannuation age.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

HEADQUARTERS:

24, ABINGDON STREET, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."

Telephone: WHitehall 9351 (6 lines).

Telegrams: Natassoc Parl, London.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been remitted to branch officers:

OCTOBER 28

83 H.Y.S./36.

(To each branch secretary.)

Concerning the disposal of "Help Yourself" Annuals.

84/ORG./36.

(To each branch secretary.)

Requesting the observations of branches on the report on collection, payment and recording of subscriptions.

85/Diary/36.

(To each branch secretary.)

Announcing the N.A.L.G.O. Diary for 1937, and enclosing leaflets and order forms.

86/Pub. Rel./36.

(To each branch secretary.)

Requesting information about local celebrations of the Coronation.

87/Pub. Rel./36.

(To the secretaries of district committees and branches.)

Regarding the presentation of shields for competition among schoolchildren for essays on the subject of civics.

88/BO/36.

(To each branch secretary.)

(a) Enclosing a copy of the new Benovolent and Orphan Fund booklet and intimating that additional copies may be obtained.

(b) Making an appeal for a special effort on behalf of the fund.

89/Gen./36.

(To each branch secretary.)

Enclosing a draft of the proposed Death Benefit scheme and requesting the observations of branches thereon.

NOVEMBER 3

90/Legal/36.

(To the secretary of each branch covering authorities which have no superannuation scheme in force.)

Concerning the Compulsory Superannuation Bill.

NOVEMBER 16

91/LOG/36.

(To each local correspondent of Logomia.)

Enclosing circulars relating to Life and Fire Insurances for distribution amongst branch members and setting out a form for requisitioning additional copies of each circular.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 18.—Meetings of committees of the National Executive Council in London.

December 19.—Meeting of the National Executive Council in London.

December 25.—Renewal premiums due on

"Nalگو" Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies.

COST OF LIVING

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the cost-of-living index for the past six months: June, 44; July, 46; August, 46; September, 47; October, 48; November, 51. The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the index figure is based are as follow:

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Food ..	31	32	36
Rent ..	59	59	59
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and Light ..	75	75	75
Other Items ..	70	70	70

N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide

RECOMMENDED ADDRESSES

To those members who have observed this notice and have been good enough to forward holiday addresses which they can recommend for inclusion in the N.A.L.G.O. Holiday Guide—Thank you! In order to keep the addresses current, hundreds of new recommendations are required each year, and all addresses recommended by members will be welcomed, especially Continental and London. If you know of a good establishment please send the name and address to Headquarters at once, stating the branch of N.A.L.G.O. of which you are a member.

For Christmas

CUFF LINKS

Colours ..	3/6
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ART SILK SQUARES ..	7/-
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Will make very acceptable gifts to your colleagues this Christmas.

Ask for an illustrated price list.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS (SUPERANNUATION)

Sir Henry Jackson, in the House of Commons, on November 16, 1936, asked the Minister of Health whether he could indicate the scope of the proposed Bill to deal with the superannuation of local government officers.

Mr. Hudson, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, replied: The Bill will be based generally on the recommendations of the Departmental Committee of 1927. The main object will be to secure that provision is made by all local authorities for the superannuation of their administrative, professional, and clerical staff, in order to remove the bar to mobility to which the absence of a uniform superannuation system gives rise and which the committee unanimously regarded as unfavourable to the efficiency of the local government service. These considerations do not apply with the same force to other members of the staffs of local authorities, and it is proposed that the superannuation of these employees should remain a matter for the discretion of each local authority.

Mr. Thorne: Will the Bill be broadened so as to enable all Government employees to come within the Act?

Mr. Holdsworth: Will the hon. gentleman bring to his right hon. friend's notice the idea that all workers might join the superannuation scheme?

Mr. T. Williams: As the road sweeper and others will have to pay part of the superannuation contributions of the salaried officers, will they not reconsider the whole thing and include all workers?

Mr. Hudson: I cannot accept the assumption underlying the question.

ORDER FORM

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Please send me.....copy(ies) of "A Century of Municipal Progress" for which I am enclosing a remittance for £ : :

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Editorial Offices: 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Whitehall 9351 (6 lines). Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration. No payment will be made for contributions unless they are specially requested by the Editor. Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed. Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly. All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Advertisement Offices: A. Darby's Advertising Service, 24-26, Water Lane, London, E.C.4, to whom all advertisement communications should be addressed. Replies to Box Nos. must be sent to A. Darby's Advertising Service. Telephones: City 6686 and 6687. Telegrams: Darbiads, Cent, London.

Liverpool Municipal Government

IN this issue we quote the Bishop of Liverpool, who has criticised municipal life in Liverpool in the "Liverpool Diocesan Review." After expressing the view that the elected representatives seem to be more concerned to promote political or personal ends than to unite in ascertaining and fulfilling the most efficient and economical ways of meeting the common tasks, his lordship says: "the efficiency and tone of the work of the corporation depends, first, upon the competence and character of the departmental chiefs. If these men are treated with disrespect, in the end they will lose self-respect, interest, and authority. Behind the departmental chief should stand the chairman of the committee."

Coming so quickly upon us after the events upon which we had to comment in this column of our last issue, this outspoken criticism by the Bishop of Liverpool only serves to confirm the gradually hardening opinion that here and there the best traditions of public administration are being forgotten.

We have been accustomed to accept party government in national affairs for a long period of time, and since debating society topics, such as home rule, protection, and disestablishment, have ceased to keep politicians within harmless and narrow spheres, their ambit has spread to such an extent that to-day anything and everything which concerns the lives and welfare of the people is "politics."

Usurpation of Authority

It is natural that this modern development should invade local government, and it is in this field that the excesses of enthusiasm are more likely to be found. When we speak of excesses, we do not want in any sense to convey the impression that we are referring to policy. It does not matter to us, nor does it matter to N.A.L.G.O., whether the policy of local government is so progressive that its opponents call it bolshevism, or that it is so modest that the other side call it reactionary; but we are concerned with those excesses which may be described as the usurpation of authority. We can quite understand the deep conviction and enthusiasm for his cause which made a member of the Labour Party stand up and boldly announce at that

Party's Edinburgh conference a few weeks ago: "If an official is wanted for an administrative post where I am concerned, and I find an applicant has been the means of moulding and encouraging our movement, he will get my vote all the time."

Bundle of Incompetence

All the sympathy in the world with that councillor's feelings cannot justify an action of the kind he has indicated. As a matter of fact, it is actions of this kind, and of the kind which we know the Bishop of Liverpool has in mind, which do a real disservice to those who are to succeed them in office as councillors.

Local government in its modern sense is a highly specialised and complicated system. The efficiency of administration becomes more and more dependant upon expert knowledge and arduous training—qualities which should be available to every town council in the country. All appointments on sentimental grounds or by patronage will have exactly the opposite effect and will just store up a bundle of incompetence for the successors of town councillors who do such things.

We realise and admit quite frankly

that the majority of the leaders of all parties are prepared to act up to and defend the best traditions of the public service of this country, but there are indications that in a number of places party leadership is not being followed by a few of their enthusiastic and misguided supporters.

What Can N.A.L.G.O. Do?

Local government is an institution too vital to the welfare of all classes of the community for political party sucklings to cut their teeth on, and something must be done to prevent this growing misuse of representative authority.

If there is no other body prepared to take a stand on this issue, then N.A.L.G.O. must do it. It is powerful enough and strong enough to put a stop to this sort of thing, and any action in that direction would have the support of public opinion. This is a first-class issue which could, with advantage, be given some time for discussion at the next annual conference.

Superannuation

Now let us turn to something more cheerful. The members will have learned with satisfaction that on the occasion of the opening of Parliament, his Majesty the King forecast that, during the present session, a measure will be submitted to make further provision for the superannuation of local government officers.

Provided Parliament can function normally during the next session, we should see the rounding up of N.A.L.G.O.'s great work on superannuation for local government officers.

We are sorry to learn from the answer given to Sir Henry Jackson's question (quoted in another column) in the House of Commons that the Compulsory Bill will not include workmen, except in so far as the provisions of the 1922 Act are carried forward. It will still be possible for local authorities to admit their workmen, but they will not be compulsorily included.

If we see the rounding-off of the superannuation issue next year—and we hope that the Bill will receive Royal Assent during Coronation Year—then another milestone in the history of local government will have been passed, and the first year of the reign of King Edward VIII will achieve historic distinction in the annals of the local government service.

The need for superannuation brought N.A.L.G.O. into existence in 1905, and only by consistent and persistent pressure on all fronts, and the enormous expenditure of money by the Association, to say nothing of the intense efforts made and energy displayed by the leaders of N.A.L.G.O., have we attained the present hopeful position.

IN case it should cause disappointment to branch officials who are holding their annual meetings this month to see no reports of these meetings in this number, it had better be stated that these "Notes" are being written before any of these meetings have taken place. The reports will, in due course, appear in our next number. Meantime, it may be stated that the branch annual reports received to date are all of an encouraging nature. They show increases in membership, improved service conditions, especially with regard to superannuation rights, and an increased interest in our subsidiary societies. It is very gratifying to find that we shall again, for the eighth year in succession, have a substantial increase in our membership in Scotland, and that the Association is steadily growing in influence and prestige throughout the country.

Glasgow Branch

The executive of the branch met on November 12, under the chairmanship of Mr. Archibald, when a number of interesting matters were discussed. The branch conditions of service committee recommended that a number of applications be made to the council. Some of these were new applications and others had been before the council on a previous occasion. A request that application be made to the corporation for a revision of the general grading scheme was considered, and it was agreed that a report be submitted on this proposal before a final decision was reached. Another question which was to be looked into was that of the time allowed off for lunch. The recommendations of the committee were approved by the executive. A minute of the chairman's committee was also submitted. One of its recommendations dealt with a proposed amendment on the branch's Benevolent and Orphan Fund. The amendment was to the effect that the total amount of grants in any one year should not exceed the total revenue for that year. It was agreed to recommend its adoption. The draft annual report and financial statement were submitted. Both these documents showed the branch to be in a flourishing condition, and, after some discussion, they were approved for submission to the annual meeting. Mr. Pettigrew reported that the first of the course of lectures on the history, development, and practice of local government had been delivered on November 10, in the old Allan Glen's School. The lecture was very interesting, and thirty-six had enrolled for the course. More enrolments were expected at next lecture. It was agreed to recommend to headquarters that a grant of £50 be made towards the expenses incurred by a member of the branch in an action for damages arising out of an injury which he sustained in the course of his employment.

Edinburgh

The divisional secretary has had meetings in one or two departments with regard to proposed applications to the town council. These applications will in due course be submitted. An effort has recently been made to organise the nursing staffs in the city hospitals. That there is a crying need for this to be done became very apparent when we got to close quarters with the problem. There is no

Scottish Notes

more deserving section of the corporation staffs than those gallant ladies in the hospitals, and there is none with such long hours, so little leisure, and such a lack of personal liberty. A number have now joined our ranks, and we had a very pleasant meeting with them recently, but there ought to be a great many more in our membership.

Aberdeen Branch

The divisional secretary had a recent meeting with the gas inspectors regarding their conditions of service, and an application has now been lodged with the corporation on their behalf. A letter has also been sent to the county clerk, asking that the question of superannuation be again raised in view of the Government's Compulsory Bill mentioned in the King's Speech.

Fife Branch

It is regrettable that Fife County Council refused by a narrow majority to adopt the recommendation of its finance committee that a scheme of superannuation for the whole staff be instituted. The position in Fife is very absurd for the education staff, or those who were at one time dealing the education, have superannuation rights, whereas those not connected with educational administration have no such rights. We understand the question is again being raised. One of the members of the branch has complained of slanderous statements being made by a councillor, and steps have now been taken to put an end to this.

Lanarkshire Branch

The sports section (golfers and bowlers) held its annual smoker and presentation of prizes in the Royal Hotel, Hamilton, on October 29. Mr. R. C. T. Mair, president of the branch, presided over a large turnout of members. After whist and high tea a lengthy concert programme was carried through. Altogether a most enjoyable and entertaining evening was spent.

The branch golf trophy with prize for the match play competition held during the season was won by Mr. D. Scott, Airdrie public assistance department. The runner-up prize was won by Mr. A. Frame, Hamilton (County) public health department. The bowling rink competition for the highest majority of shots over three games was won by Mr. P. R. Brown's rink (Messrs. D. Jamison, J. Brown, J. Colquhoun, and P. R. Brown, skip). The prizes for whist held during the evening were won by Mr. J. Daly (1st) and Mr. R. C. T. Mair (2nd).

Eastern Border Counties Branch

The annual dinner of the Eastern Border Counties Branch was this year held in Kelso. It was a very fine function, presided over by the president, Mr. Robert Wood, M.A., director of education for Berwickshire. Mr. J. M. Hunter, K.C., Sheriff-Principal of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk, proposed "The Local Government Service." Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, chairman of the

Scottish District Committee, who replied, said that the system of local government had been placed in the hands of the people themselves. The Earl of Home, K.T., Convener of Berwick County Council, replying to the toast of "Border Local Authorities," which was proposed by Mr. Henry W. Scarth, county clerk of Roxburghshire, said that the more people took an interest in county affairs the more they felt they had a stake in their country and in their native land. Major S. Strang Steel, chairman of Selkirk County Road Board, also replied. The chairman, in a neat and entertaining speech, proposed "Our Guests," and Provost Scott, of Kelso, replied. Mr. W. D. Ritchie, M.A., in a humorous speech, proposed "Our Chairman."

Stirling Branch

The first annual dinner of the Stirling and District Branch was held in Stirling on October 30, when both the elected side and the official side of local government were well represented. The gathering was presided over by the Mr. George J. Sherriff, the county clerk and honorary president of the branch. In proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," the Right Hon. the Earl of Mar and Kellie, K.T., Convener of Clackmannan County Council, said that the Association had had great influence with the Government in framing Parliamentary Bills; especially he might instance the Superannuation Act of 1922, and he might mention that his County of Clackmannan had been one of the first in Scotland to adopt that Act. In wishing prosperity to N.A.L.G.O., he said it was a most flourishing and desirable institution. Mr. W. E. Lloyd, replying, said that N.A.L.G.O. was entirely free of politics, and would keep free of politics as long as local government existed. "Local Authorities in the Branch Area" was proposed by Mr. A. G. M. Archibald, chairman of the Scottish District Committee. Referring to the work of councillors, he said that probably those councillors who had given years of service would never receive the thanks that were due them, but he would assure them that the officials working with them and N.A.L.G.O., as a body, realised all that they did for the convenience, comfort, and happiness of the people they served, and for the general stability of the country. Mr. Charles E. Horsburgh, convener of Stirling County Council, and Provost Younger, Alloa, responded to the toast. In proposing the toast of "The Houses of Parliament," Mr. John McMichael, town clerk of Callander, expressed the belief that there should be closer liaison between the different branches of the civil service. Mr. L. MacNeill Weir, M.P. for East Stirlingshire and Clackmannan, in replying, remarked that it would be impossible for the Government to get on if it were not for the help and assistance given by officials. The chairman proposed the toast of "Our Guests," and this was responded to by Rev. George Turner, Balfron, vice-chairman of Stirling County Council, Bailie Gavin, Stirling, and Provost Liles Callander. "The Artists" was proposed by Mr. David B. Morris, town clerk, Stirling. The toast of "The Chairman" was proposed by Mr. T. Cunningham Shanks, county clerk, Alloa.

Victory at Carlisle Assizes

Important Salaries Case—Effect of County Review Order

THE case of Cowan v. Ennerdale Rural District Council which was tried recently at the Carlisle Assizes dealt with the question of the rate of remuneration to which an officer was entitled after his transfer from one authority to another under the provisions of a County Review Order.

In September, 1927, Mr. Cowan, who is a member of N.A.L.G.O., was appointed by the former Egremont Urban District Council as Rent Collector to the Castle Croft and Brisco Mount Housing Estates owned by that council at a commission of 2 per cent on all moneys collected. It was his duty to collect not only the rents, but also the rates from tenants on these estates, and the rent books at one time showed separate items for rents and rates. In May, 1928, the urban district council passed a resolution "that Mr. Cowan be paid a commission at the rate of 3 per cent on all rents collected by him," and it was the use of the word "rents" which caused the subsequent litigation. Mr. Cowan, however, continued to collect both the rents and rates of these estates up to April 1, 1934, which was the date when the Cumberland Review Order came into operation, and despite the wording of the resolution of 1928 was paid a commission at the rate of 3 per cent on both rents and rates collected. It appeared—and this was contended on behalf of Mr. Cowan at the hearing—that the insertion of the word "rents" was made in error, and that the urban district council intended, as was shown by their subsequent action, Mr. Cowan to be remunerated at 3 per cent on all moneys collected.

Under the provisions of the Review Order the Egremont Urban District was dissolved and its area was absorbed by the Ennerdale Rural District, Mr. Cowan being transferred to the service of the Ennerdale Rural District Council. For the first six months after transfer Mr. Cowan carried out his pre-transfer duties of collection of the rents and rates of the Castle Croft and Brisco Mount Housing Estates, and was paid by the Ennerdale Rural District Council a commission of 3 per cent on the total sums so collected.

It should be mentioned that the Review Order contained the usual provision to the effect that a transferred officer was to hold his office on the same tenure and upon the same terms and conditions as immediately before the appointed day, and while performing similar duties should receive not less salary or remuneration than the salary or remuneration to which he would have been entitled if the Order had not been made. Another provision stated that the council to which an officer was transferred might employ the officer in the performance of such of their business as they thought proper, and imposed on the officer an obligation to perform such duties in relation to that business as might be directed by the council. If, however, at any time within five years after the appointed day the officer was required by

the council to perform duties which were not analogous to or were an unreasonable addition to those which he was required to perform immediately before the appointed day, the Review Order gave him the right to relinquish office and claim compensation.

On July 28, 1934, Mr. Cowan received a letter in the following terms: "The Ennerdale Rural District Council has now given consideration to the staff required in the various departments in the new administration, and the placing of the officers transferred to it from the dissolved authorities. I am instructed to advise you that the council has placed you in the Rating and Valuation Department in the position of collector.

"I am also instructed to advise you that the council has resolved that the present rates of remuneration will remain in operation for the period of twelve months."

This appointment as collector in the Rating and Valuation Department was made by resolution of the Ennerdale Rural District Council, and took effect as from October 1, 1934. In addition to his former duties Mr. Cowan was now obliged to collect certain general and water rates, water meter rentals, slaughter-house and market rents. During the first six months in this new appointment Mr. Cowan collected about £3,000 in respect of rates and rents of the housing estates, for which he received as previously a commission of 3 per cent, and in addition £7,920 rs. rd. in respect of the other rates and revenues for which he applied but received no payment from the council. Shortly afterwards Mr. Cowan relinquished his appointment and claimed compensation under the Review Order on the ground that he had been called upon to perform by the Ennerdale Rural District Council duties which were an unreasonable addition to those he performed prior to transfer under the Egremont Urban District Council. His claim was admitted, and compensation was duly awarded.

Mr. Cowan then consulted the Association, and his case was put in the hands of the Association's solicitors and proceedings were instituted against the Ennerdale Rural District Council, claiming payment from them of the sum of £237 12s., which represented commission at the rate of 3 per cent on the additional rates and revenues collected. In their defence the council admitted that he was entitled to be remunerated at the rate of 3 per cent on rents collected, but contended that, as he had received remuneration in excess of that amount, he was not entitled to any additional remuneration. Alternatively, they pleaded that if Mr. Cowan was entitled to any remuneration in addition to the 3 per cent on rents collected, then it should be calculated at the rate of 2 per cent, on the basis of the resolution of September, 1927. With their defence the council paid into court the sum of £136. 10s.

The case came on for hearing at the

Carlisle Assizes on October 19 last before Mr. Justice Finlay. In support of Mr. Cowan various members of the former Egremont Urban District Council testified that their intention in increasing the rate of commission in 1928 was that the increase should apply to all moneys collected by him. The judge reserved his judgment in order to consider the case, and later delivered judgment at Liverpool on November 16 last. He held that Mr. Cowan was entitled to remuneration at the rate of 3 per cent on the additional rates and revenues collected by him during the six months period commencing on October 1, 1934, and after a minor adjustment gave judgment against the Ennerdale Rural District Council for £215 9s. 5d. and costs.

After referring to the facts and to the pertinent resolutions Mr. Justice Finlay, in his judgment, said that it was perfectly clear that the intention of the members of the Egremont Urban District Council, in passing their resolution of May, 1928, was to increase the remuneration from 2 per cent to 3 per cent on all amounts collected by Mr. Cowan. He thought that Mr. Cowan was quite aptly described as a rent collector, but it was clear that for the urban district council he collected rates as well as rents. A rent book had been produced which showed what had happened. At first the rents and rates were shown separately. Latterly they had been incorporated in one sum, but it none the less remained true that they were two distinct things, and that was proved by the fact that in his final summary Mr. Cowan separated rent and rates. His lordship then went on to refer to the relevant provisions of the Cumberland Review Order, and to the letter dated July 28, 1934, received by Mr. Cowan from the Ennerdale Rural District Council. He then said:

"Now, the plaintiff then was a rate collector. The defendants at first said—and, indeed, I think that was their contention up to the hearing—they at first said that in respect of rates collected the plaintiff was entitled to no remuneration at all, but Mr. Pritchard, at the hearing, very properly, if I may say so, abandoned that contention. That leaves a comparatively minor issue before me, the issue whether a proper basis is 2 per cent or 3 per cent. I have arrived at the conclusion that the proper basis is 3 per cent, and on an extremely simple ground. Three per cent was his remuneration from Egremont, and that remuneration, if I am right, was for collecting both rent and rates. When it is said that he is to be entitled to the same remuneration I think that must mean 3 per cent.

"Different considerations would have arisen if he had been exclusively a rent collector, and then he had been appointed a rate collector. It was with that in view that I examined with some little care the exact position which he held under the Egremont Council, but I come to the conclusion that the correct view to take is that he was a rent and rate collector at 3 per cent, and therefore was entitled to 3 per cent. . . . I ought perhaps to add this, though, that I am not satisfied that on any view 3 per cent would be an unreasonable remuneration. It is unnecessary to develop that matter further. Sufficient to say that I think the plaintiff is entitled to judgment."

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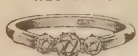
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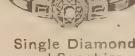
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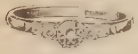
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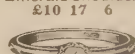
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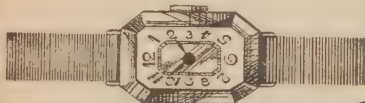


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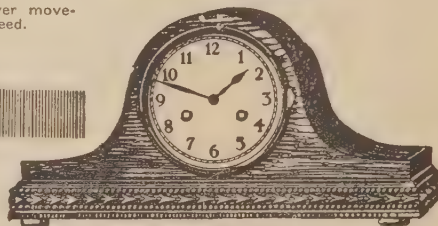
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RESEARCH IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It has long been contended that one of the chief obstacles in the way of a clear understanding of what is local government, where it came from, and where it is going, is the absence of an adequate cultural, historical, and factual background to the existing regime, and, as the measurement of trends cannot safely be undertaken without this vital background, an agitation has been going on for the establishment of a research fund, either from official sources or by means of a philanthropic foundation.

One must admit that, so far as this country is concerned, the ice has been broken—by an American. It is no credit to us that we should owe a debt of gratitude as well as an imponderable debt to the Spelman Fund of New York for the results of pieces of research work, carried out under the auspices of the Institute of Public Administration, which have been made possible only by means of a generous grant from that fund.

The latest work to be published by the Institute is the result of some intensive research by Mr. A. H. Marshall, B.Sc. (Econ.), A.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., deputy city treasurer, Coventry, and has been published under the title of *"Local Authorities: Internal Financial Control"* (I.P.A., Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, Westminster, S.W.1, 7s. 6d. net). Some idea of the magnitude of the problem which confronted Mr. Marshall when he commenced work can be obtained from the fact that a little of the data has been gleaned from books and printed documents, but the major part has been supplied personally by public servants, central and local. For instance, nearly a hundred chief financial officers answered a long and detailed questionnaire, while many others placed their experience at Mr. Marshall's disposal by correspondence or interview. He also spent some time as a research student at the London School of Economics.

Starting with a definition of the three principal aspects of financial control, routine control, financial information, and financial advice, Mr. Marshall develops his theme from the statutes and orders of the central government down to the principles and practice of costing, and he has added six important appendices and a table of statutes, orders, and regulations.

This is quite a small volume—there are only 218 pages including the index—but its quality and its importance are such that certainly no officer, be he senior or junior, in the finance department of a local authority can afford to be without a copy, and he would be an ill-advised student of public administration who did not possess a copy for study and for reference purposes.

Other research studies in administration are:

"Population Changes and Their Effect upon Social Services," by Norman Wilson, M.A. (1s.). *"Scope for Initiative in the Junior Grades of the Civil Service,"* by T. E. Naughten, A.S.A.A. (1s.). *"The Use by a Local Authority of Sinking Funds, etc., for Its Own Capital Purposes,"* by Eric Maxwell, A.S.A.A., and Ernest Long, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., A.C.I.S. (1s. 6d.). *"Stabilisation of Rates,"* by E. J. D. Lloyd, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A., A.C.I.S. (1s.). *"A Day in My Official Life,"* by officers of the public service (2s. 6d.).

General Literature

By JONAS PRAPS

Other Countries

One of the most delightful books of experiences in other countries—it is not a travel book in the strictest sense—is *"Three Deserts,"* by C. S. Jarvis (Murray ros. 6d.). Mr. Jarvis was Governor of Sinai and has spent eighteen years as an administrator. He knows the Bedouin Arab life and mind intimately. He moved about amongst them daily and travelled all over the Egyptian deserts. The account as set down in this book is full of interest, not unminged with humour. — Kenya is in some quarters looked upon as the country of the future, and in *"So This is Kenya"* (Blackie, ros. 6d.) Evelyn Brodhurst-Hill describes the life and problems of Europeans who have made it their home. Her descriptions are chiefly of social life. — If you are not satiated with books upon Russia, Dr. Ewald Ammende's *"Human Life in Russia"* (Allen & Unwin, ros. 6d.) should satisfy your craving for more. It is the strongest indictment of Communism in Russia I know of. Human life according to Dr. Ammende counts for nothing there, "the end justifies the means." The chapter on Propaganda Methods is a scathing criticism of Russian methods in promoting Communist ideas in other countries. — Mr. Walter Wilkinson has been on tour once again with his puppets, trundling his Punch and Judy show plus travel kit this time through Lancashire. His trip is described in *"Puppets Through Lancashire"* (Bles, 5s.). He has a good deal to say about the rain and the none too enthusiastic reception of the collecting hat; he seems to have been particularly unfortunate at the old Roman station, now the village of Ribchester. His tour is pleasantly described.

Other People's Lives.

In biography the more noticeable have a varied appeal. Malcolm Muggeridge's *"The Earnest Atheist"* (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 10s. 6d.) is a new study of Samuel Butler. He displays the author of *"The Way of All Flesh"* in a much less favourable light than the official biographer, Butler's friend Festing Jones. — Of quite a different character is Frantz Funck-Brentano's *"Luther"* (Cape, 12s. 6d.). It is an interesting and scholarly account of Luther's life and of his contribution to the political as well as religious influence upon Protestantism. — In literary circles J. Lewis May's *"John Lane and the Nineties"* (Lane, 15s.) recounts the publisher's associations with the men and women of the "Beardsley" period very entertainingly. — Last, but not least interesting is Bechhofer Roberts on *"Stanley Baldwin—Man or Miracle?"* (Robert Hale, 12s. 6d.). It is a popular account of Mr. Baldwin's private life, but more particularly of his rise to power in the political world. — Messrs. Nelson & Sons have recently published an abridged edition of John Buchan's History of the Great War under the title of *"Episodes of the Great War"* (8s. 6d.). The book is a readable resumé

of the whole campaign. — *"El Jimmy"* is the life story of an outlaw in Patagonia told by Herbert Childs (Hutchinson, 12s. 6d.). Jimmy has spent some forty years, mostly adventurous ones, sheep-ranching, and lived a somewhat wild, nomadic life. He fell desperately in love with the daughter of an Indian chief with whom he made a runaway match, eventually settling down on a piece of land of his own.

Lighter Matters

Such is Frank Pollard's skill in writing that you can imagine yourself back in the eighteenth century when Britain really ruled the waves in reading *"East India-man"* (Constable, 7s. 6d.). The title is unattractive, but the book recounts chiefly the doings of an officer in the maritime service of the East India Company. The evils of patronage, intrigue, and profiteering are displayed. There is not a dull page in the book, which in style reminds one forcibly of Fielding. — Walter de la Mare is too fanciful—not sufficiently straightforward in his language—to suit many readers, but few can equal him in making the ethereal appear real. You can sense the atmosphere of tragedy in the home in the story entitled *"Physic"* in *"The Wind Blows Over"* (Faber, 8s. 6d.). The book is a collection of stories or sketches in which the imaginative predominates. — Of other recent fiction worth reading these may be noticed: *"Under Moscow,"* a story by Maurice Hindus (Gollancz, ros. 6d.), deals with Russia in 1929-30. — Rosamond Lehmann's *"The Weather in the Streets"* (Collins, 8s.) is full of excellent characterisation and clever dialogue. — Virginia in the late eighteenth century and a family feud over the question of loyalty to England form the theme of Jeffery Farnol's new novel *"A Pageant of Victory"* (S. Low, 7s. 6d.). It seems a long time since any book of Farnol's was published, and he always has a story to tell. — *"Green-gates"* (Gollancz, 7s. 6d.) has no affinity with *"Journey's End."* It is a somewhat placid story of a retired business man in suburbia: a complete change from the circumstances of his life as a city clerk. — *"Midnight,"* by Julian Green (Heinemann, 7s. 6d.), has been hailed as a classic in being, and it is difficult to tell in a few words of its fine dramatic appeal. Translated from the French, in which language it won the Femina vie Heureuse Prize, it is well worth reading. — *"Eyeless in Gaza,"* by Aldous Huxley (Chatto, ros. 6d.), is also lengthy, and is typical of the Huxley style. It would, however, be difficult for anyone other than a character in fiction to "be talking to Brian on the platform at Ambleside." The nearest station to Ambleside is five miles away. — *"Will Someone Lead Me to a Pub?"* a request born of boredom by G. K. Chesterton, is used by Thomas Burke (Routledge, 3s. 6d.) as a title to an interesting examination—retrospective and introspective—of London's hostels. Mr. Burke's knowledge of them is intimately extensive.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the death, on October 29, of **Mr. S. J. Chapman**, senior sanitary inspector of the Hendon Borough Council. Mr. Chapman had been an active member of the Hendon Branch since 1907, and his death is a distinct loss to the branch.

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death on Thursday, October 8, 1936, of **Mr. Stanley Caudle**, assistant town clerk to the Bethnal Green Borough Council, at the age of fifty years. The Branch and the Association have lost a very loyal Nalgoite in his passing. He had been secretary, chairman, and then president of the Branch and rendered valuable service in the setting up of the local Whitley Committee. He did a great deal of pioneer work for the Association in the early days and assisted in the founding of N.A.L.G.O.

RETIREMENT

Mr. William Ginger, honorary treasurer of the Manchester Municipal Officers' Guild, has retired this month on superannuation. Mr. Ginger has held this very onerous position for sixteen years and has fulfilled his duties in a most praiseworthy manner. The National Association owes much to Mr. Ginger for the ability and interest he has shown in the direction of the financial affairs of such an important branch.

Mr. J. J. Money, chief clerk in the city surveyor and water engineer's department, Gloucester, who started his career in the municipal service in the town clerk's office in 1894, retired on October 15, 1936, and during his period of service he watched Gloucester City grow to over three times its former size. Mr. Money was one of the founder members of the Gloucester Branch, and was its first honorary treasurer—an office he held for many years. He has also been a member of the executive committee from its inception. On October 24 he was presented with a gold watch by the city surveyor, on behalf of the whole of the officials and staff of the Corporation.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr. John A. MacKerrell, lately accountant in the city chamberlain's office, Dundee, has been appointed to the post of secretary of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants. The salary commences at £800, rising to £1,200 per annum. The post was advertised, and Mr. MacKerrell was successful out of 200 applications. He left the city chamberlain's department at Dundee about a year ago to take up the post of assistant secretary of the institute, and now he has been appointed to the principal position. Mr. MacKerrell is thirty years of age.

Mr. J. Rothwell, who was deputy borough treasurer to the county borough of Bury, has just taken up an appointment as borough treasurer of Rawtenstall. Mr. Rothwell, who went to Bury from Stretford four years ago, is a life member of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and for three years he served the branch in the capacity of education correspondent and building society correspondent. During the past year, he was a vice-president of the Branch, and he has given very valuable service during the time he was at Bury. Bury's loss is Rawtenstall's gain.

N.A.L.G.O. INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

Members will be interested to learn that the **Canterbury and District Branch** has been successful in arranging for a course of study at the recently opened technical institute, at Canterbury, in preparation for the N.A.L.G.O. intermediate examination. The tutors who have been engaged by the Institute authorities are persons with particular knowledge in the various subjects of the examination, and up to the present time ten local members have enrolled.

Camaraderie

ANNUAL REPORTS

The annual report of the **Salford Branch** shows an increase in the membership, including retired members, from 842 to 867. A scheme for granting supplementary financial assistance towards the cost of a course of professional, technical, or vocational education was inaugurated by the branch during the year under review.

An increase of twenty-four in the membership of the **Wallasey Branch** is revealed in the annual report just issued. Last year the total membership was 302, this year it has risen to 326.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The third annual meeting of the **Long Eaton Branch** was held November 12, 1936. Mr. E. A. Walker (assistant surveyor) was appointed president of the branch for the ensuing year, and Mr. A. Hooper (librarian) vice-president. The statement of accounts showed a balance in hand of £13 14s. 7d., which represented an increase of £3 16s. 1d. during the year. The report of the Executive Committee showed that during the year the Long Eaton Council had adopted an improved scale of salaries, cycle accommodation had been provided for the staff, a representative of the branch had attended the annual conference at Aberdeen, and several social evenings, a whist drive and dance had been held. The present membership of the branch is twenty-six.

The annual meeting of the **Rhyl Branch** was held on November 4. Mr. T. Amos Jones was re-elected president and Mr. Frank Arthur was elected chairman. Messrs. J. Douglas Jones and Walter Field were re-elected honorary secretary and treasurer respectively.

The annual meeting of the **Wakefield Branch** was held on November 12, 1936. There was a large attendance and a very satisfactory report was submitted on behalf of the executive committee. The branch membership shows a net increase of twenty-four during the year, and now stands at 187. The report referred to the extension to annual holidays which had been granted as the result of representations made by the branch. Attention was also drawn to the concessions granted by the Corporation in regard to the courses for the diploma in public administration at the University of Leeds. The examination is now recognised for grant purposes, and a special allowance is made towards tuition fees and travelling expenses incurred by members taking the course. The meeting was followed by a social and dancing was interspersed by musical items.

BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND

On October 28, a circular was sent from headquarters to branches asking them to make a special effort to augment the income of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund this year. The **Portsmouth Branch** has certainly risen to the occasion, and by means of a dance, a concert, and a sweepstake nearly £60 has been raised for the Fund. This is an extremely good effort, and we offer our heartiest congratulations to the Portsmouth Branch on achieving such a success and our thanks to the members of that branch for the practical interest they have displayed in the work of "the pride of N.A.L.G.O."

SOCIALS

A very enjoyable whist drive and dance, organised by the **Bolton and District Branch**, was held on October 16, 1936. Nearly 300 members and friends took part, and the B. & O. Fund will benefit to the extent of

£17. The 'socials secretary' (Miss D. W. Biggs) has been heartily complimented by the Branch executive committee on the excellent arrangements made.

A very successful dance, organised by the **North Riding County Officers' Branch**, was held on October 30, 1936. There were about 200 people present, including H. G. Thornley, Esq., clerk of the County Council; R. Sawtell, Esq., president of the Branch and county surveyor; H. F. Kelland, Esq., clerk of accounts; E. F. Hardwick, county veterinary officer; Dr. A. Davison, county medical officer; and the divisional secretary. The arrangements were carried out by the dance sub-committee, of which Miss Gwen Roberts is the honorary secretary.

The annual ball of the **Walsall Branch** was held on November 16. A company of about 750, which included the Mayor of Walsall, Councillor A. J. Stanley, and the mayoress, spent a very enjoyable evening. Music was provided by Maurice Winnick and his band and the Paramout Dance Band. Mr. W. Mason, honorary secretary of the social events committee, is to be congratulated on the excellence of the arrangements, for the whole of which he was responsible.

The first social event of the winter season, a carnival dance organised by the **Walthamstow Branch**, was held on October 24. There were about 100 persons present including the president of the Branch (Mr. F. G. Garner, town clerk), the vice-president (Mr. T. S. Cunningham, borough engineer and surveyor), and other officials of the branch and their friends. Howard Baker's "Five Aces" Band played for the dancing, which included several novelty items, and the M.C. was Mr. Percival W. Bond, honorary social secretary.

ANNUAL DINNERS

Mr. L. J. Barrell, of Colchester, and honorary secretary of the Branch (who is a founder member), presided over the twelfth annual dinner of the Branch held on October 29. The town clerk proposed the toast of "The Mayor and Corporation," and paid a nice tribute to members of the Council, saying that in these days of bustle and hurry it was a remarkable thing that men and women should be willing and even anxious to serve upon local authorities without any reward other than that which was the lot of anyone who participated in public life and in the direction of a town's affairs. The Deputy Mayor responded, and the Mayor-Designate proposed the toast of the local branch of the Association, which was replied to by the borough electrical engineer. The borough engineer toasted the president, who as usual tried to divert the credit which was due to him on to other shoulders.

In 1889 the newly constituted Gloucestershire County Council levied rates of 10d. and spent £140,000. Now the County Council is spending £2,000,000 per year, with county rates of 9s. 8d. This remarkable contrast was quoted by Mr. G. T. Bailey, chairman of the Gloucestershire Branch at the annual dinner held on October 23. Colonel E. F. Sinnott, who presided over the proceedings, submitted the toast of "The Association," which was responded to by Mr. W. W. Armitage, and other speakers included Sir Frederick Cripps, chairman of the County Council, Mr. E. C. Boyce, county surveyor, and the Mayor of Gloucester.

One of the most successful meetings held was the general opinion of the annual dinner and dance of the **Plymouth Branch** held on November 4, at which over 250 people, including the lord mayor and members of the Council were present. Mr. C. J. Newman, town clerk of Exeter, chairman of the South-Western District Committee, and member of the National Executive Council, warned the gathering that the local government system in this country was on its trial

(Continued on page 684)



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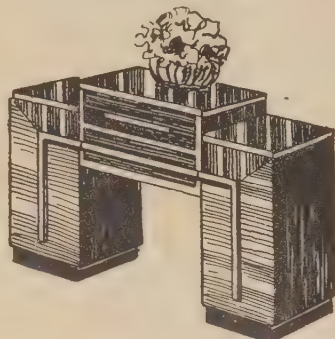
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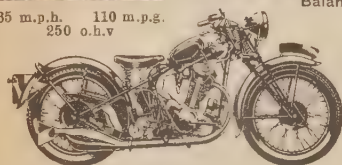
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(Continued from page 678)

and that it was the duty of the councils and their staffs to prove that the system was better than any "Continentalism." The town clerk of Plymouth presided over the gathering and submitted the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of Plymouth," and in responding, his Worship said that the relations between the City Council and N.A.L.G.O. were probably an example to many corporations in other parts of the country. That was largely due, he said, to the able officers of the Association, and the tactful manner and ability with which they had raised questions. Alderman Stephens proposed the toast of "The Association," and in doing so, referred to the examinations for entry into local government service, commenting that it obviated wire-pulling. Mr. G. H. Cole responded.

The first annual dinner of the **Long Eaton Branch** was held on November 12, 1936. The guests included the chairman and vice-chairman of the Long Eaton U.D.C., Mr. J. E. N. Davis (divisional secretary); Mr. A. B. Day (National Executive Council), of Nottingham; and representatives of the surrounding branches. The president of the branch (Mr. E. A. Walker) was in the chair, supported by the branch officers. "The Long Eaton U.D.C." was proposed by Mr. G. H. Windram (a past president of the branch), and the chairman of the Council (Councillor W. F. Brentnall, J.P.) responded.

"Local Government" was proposed by Mr. A. B. Day (National Executive Council), the response being made by Mr. J. E. N. Davis (divisional secretary).

"The President" was proposed by Councillor T. W. Smith (vice-chairman of the Long Eaton U.D.C.), who spoke of the cordial relationship existing between the Long Eaton Council and its officials. The president of the Branch (Mr. E. A. M. Walker) suitably replied.

"Our Guests" was proposed by Mr. Bowles (chairman of the Branch executive committee), and on behalf of the guests Mr. F. W. B. Smith (Derby County Officers Branch) responded.

The annual dinner of the **Sheffield Branch** held in the City Hall, Sheffield, on October 26, was, as usual, a highly successful gathering. Mr. J. K. Swales, general manager of the city waterworks and president of the Guild, presided over the function. Mr. R. S. Hudson, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, was the principal guest of the evening. In proposing the toast of "The Local Government Service and N.A.L.G.O.," he reviewed briefly the history of local government, and in the course of a very interesting speech traced its growth and development. He declared that the success of our system of local government was largely due to the efficiency and ability of the officers engaged in the service. The toast was responded to by the Lord Mayor, who was ably supported by Mr. W. W. Armitage, vice-president of the Association. The president of the Guild proposed the toast of "Our Guests." Alderman E. G. Rowlinson, J.P., and Alderman J. W. Jackson, J.P., responding. The speeches were interspersed by a delightful programme of musical items.

The **Wallasey Branch** had a very successful annual dinner on October 26. Mr. Stephenson (director of education), president of the Branch, said: "We do resent very much those people who are only too ready to make innuendoes about double-dealing and wire-pulling and that kind of thing. We consider we carry out our duties honourably and efficiently, and we try to serve our councils and the people of the borough to the best of our ability." His Worship the Mayor, Alderman F. H. Thornton, paid tribute to the fine work of the Wallasey officers.

The first annual dinner of the **Birmingham Branch** was held on October 23, and was a

very successful function. Dr. H. T. Kirkland (Erdington House), president of the branch, presided over a company of about a hundred, which included Alderman J. Lancaster, J.P., Mr. W. E. Lloyd (borough treasurer of Hampstead, president of the Association), Mr. F. H. Harrod, M.C., and Mr. G. A. Stone, West Midland representatives on the National Executive Council; Mr. John Simonds, deputy general secretary and legal secretary of N.A.L.G.O.; Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary; Mr. J. F. S. Taylor, president of the Birmingham Municipal Officers' Guild; Dr. S. M. Steel (Monyhull Colony), Mr. W. Johnson, acting public assistance officer; Mr. F. Kimberley, accountant, public assistance department; Mr. E. P. Hill (master of Erdington House), Miss B. H. Downing and Miss D. Udale.

Mr. John Simonds proposed the toast of "The City of Birmingham," and Alderman Lancaster, responding, deprecated the apathy of municipal electors in Birmingham. Many people, he said, were proud of their city, yet it was a matter for regret that many did not take a greater interest in the way in which

their city was managed. In his youth they had thought that the growth of education and the giving of the vote would mean that everyone would take a deep interest in the way affairs were managed; unfortunately, that had not been found to be true.

Mr. J. E. N. Davis proposed the toast of "Local Government," and Mr. W. E. Lloyd responded.

Responding to the toast of "The Visitors," proposed by Dr. Kirkland, Mr. J. F. S. Taylor said they in the Guild appreciated the wonderful work which had been done and was being done by N.A.L.G.O., and the time might come when the Guild and N.A.L.G.O. would be of mutual assistance, he knew of no good reason why they should not march side by side for the benefit of the local government service. Mr. G. A. Stone also replied on behalf of the visitors.

The **Rhyl Branch** held its annual dinner on November 4. A most enjoyable evening was spent and the ex-town clerk, Mr. Amos Jones, expressed the delight which the members felt at the promise in the King's Speech of a compulsory measure of superannuation.

Foreign News:

Culled from Overseas Services

Demands of Polish Employees

THE Liaison Committee of the three main Polish unions of civil servants, local government employees, and professional workers (salaried employees) recently published a manifesto which may be considered as the economic and social programme of the unions in question.

The social policy put forward by the Liaison Committee calls for higher wages, measures to alleviate unemployment, a reduction of hours of work without any lowering of the standard of living, the lowering of the pensionable age, the prohibition of plural employment, the introduction of legislation establishing collective agreements and arbitration, and conferring the sole right of contracting collective agreements on the trade unions, the abolition of the special tax on public servants' salaries and the restoration of the independence of the social insurance system. Demands are also made for the strengthening of the factory inspectorate by the appointment of assistant inspectors, a larger number of labour courts, the right of the workers to share in the organisation of production, finance, and foreign trade through the medium of works committees similar to those existing in Upper Silesia, and, finally, the recognition of the principle of collaboration between Government departments and the trade unions through the medium of joint committees.—Communication to the I.L.O.—("Industrial and Labour Information," November 2, 1936.)

Unaware He Was Owner of Building

GEORGE ORTSEIFEN, a real estate dealer in Chicago, was surprised to learn that a six-flat building was included in a parcel of real estate which came into his possession through a mortgage transaction.

He might never have discovered that fact, if two of the tenants had not quarrelled and gone to court, where incidental questioning revealed nobody in

the building had paid rent for ten years because nobody knew who owned it. An investigation disclosed Ortseifen's unsuspected status of landlord.—("The Municipal Review of Canada," October, 1936.)

Organisations Merge

AT the recent Public Works Congress of the American Society of Municipal Engineers and the International Association of Public Works Officials, the executive boards of these organisations approved a constitution which, if passed by a majority vote of the members, will merge the two associations into a new organisation to be known as the American Public Works Association. The two organisations have maintained a joint secretariat for two years. The complete merger is an expression of the growing feeling that engineers concerned with the design and construction of public improvements have much in common with the officials concerned with the operation and maintenance of public works.—("Governmental Research Bulletin," November, 1936.)

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"My City has a right to my civic loyalty. It supports me and I must support it.

"My City wants my citizenship—not partisanship; friendliness—not offishness; co-operation—not dissension; sympathy—not criticism; my intelligent support—not indifference.

"My City supplies me with work, education, friends, recreation. I should believe in my City and work for it.

"And I will."—("Calcutta Municipal Gazette," September 12, 1936.)

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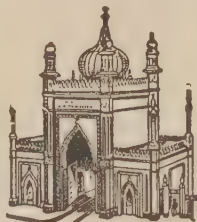
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 Mr. F. BUGGS, Crayford U.D.C., to Valuation Assistant, Potters Bar U.D.C.
 Mr. C. W. R. MURPHY, Norfolk C.C., to Relieving Officer, Grimsby C.B.C.
 Mr. E. R. GREEN, Willemsden B.C., to Cleansing Superintendent, Nottingham B.C.C.
 Mr. D. WESTON, Ilford B.C., to Engineering Assistant, Clacton U.D.C.
 Mr. R. L. RANKIN, Woolwich M.B.C., to Chief Engineering Assistant, Tipton U.D.C.
 Mr. M. HARRISON, Barking B.C., to Director of Education, Mansfield B.C.
 Miss A. GALLACHER, Surrey C.C., to Health Visitor, Wembley U.D.C.
 Miss K. M. GRIFFIN, Bedford C.C., to Maternity Hospital, King Street, Watford (Hertfordshire C.C.).
 Mr. I. D. SATURLEY, Watford B.C., to Sanitary Inspector, Luton B.C.
 Mr. S. SIMMONS, South-West Herts Branch, to Sanitary Inspector, Deptford M.B.C.
 Mr. J. H. GLOYN, Southgate B.C., to Building Inspector, Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.
 Mr. R. E. COUSINS, Essex C.C., to Assistant Director of Education, Birmingham B.C.C.
 Mr. G. A. MURCH, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., Audit Clerk, Luton B.C.
 Mr. P. P. WELF, Great Yarmouth C.B.C., Audit Clerk, Redcar B.C.

"The Sport of Kings" was very popular

THE N.A.L.G.O. (Metropolitan District) Operatic and Dramatic Society is to be congratulated on its very able production of "The Sport of Kings" at King George's Hall on October 30 and 31. The play, which develops on broad comedy lines, is not one which readily adapts itself to effective amateur production, and its presentation by the society was, therefore, the more creditable. Mr. Wilfred Betts, in the leading part of Amos Purdie, J.P., a sanctimonious, skin-

telephone, she backs "Kitchen Nuts," instead of ordering that necessary commodity from the co-operative stores, was one of the high spots of the evening.

Bates, the ex-bookie's clerk-butler, was played by Mr. Herbert Ward, who warmed to his part as the play progressed. When he had shed his assumed character of "Bates," and revealed himself in his true colours, he brought the atmosphere of the course on to the stage.

Sir Reginald Toothill, Bart. (J. E. Williams), was exceedingly well acted, as also was Algernon Sprigge (Roy Wyand). A well-matched pair.

Dulcie Primrose, played by Marjorie Turner, was a capable performance, and H. B. Williams and Vera Stephens, as the impish son and daughter of Amos Purdie, entered into their parts with great spirit.

The minor characters were all very ably acted, and the general impression after the fall of the curtain was that the play, both in its production and presentation, had reached a great height of excellence.

There is only one severe criticism of the evening, and that is given to the other side of the footlights. The hall ought to have been filled to its capacity on both evenings. Members who missed this show will, however, be able to repair the omission in February, when the society presents "The Mikado," which, judging by the standard set in this production, should be well worth a visit.



One of the Scenes from "The Sport of Kings"

flint old gentleman, who learned to place his modest "Rhododendron" on Hobbled-hoy, was a great success. He was able to put subtlety into his characterisation and avoided the more obvious interpretation of his part. His gradual "degeneration" was superbly acted.

Edith Cole, in the part of the docile Mrs. Purdie, was perfect. Her nervous, restrained acting created a very real and natural character. The scene where, having received the wrong number on the

Home Gardening

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens,"
"The Wright Encyclopedia of Gardening," etc

WHEN outdoor gardening presents difficulties in December owing to wet, frost, and bad light combined, what do we do? In an ordinary year and with another ordinary year confronting us we might be satisfied with planting a few extra Roses or with planting more fruit trees. But neither the present nor the forthcoming year is normal, for we have the Coronation in view, and if we are as loyal as we ought to be (and are we not, every one of us?) then we shall be thinking about the decoration of the exterior of our respective dwellings with plants in boxes, tubs, baskets, and I know not what all.

To begin with, let us deal with the window boxes we are out to make. What sizes are they to be, of what wood and what are they to be filled with? As regards size, we have to think of our window-sills, their area and their slope, both important matters. The average window-sill is rarely more than six inches wide, and if we had to limit the width of our boxes to that we should be badly placed indeed. But have we? I think not. There can generally be an overhang of a few inches, more or less according to the width of the sill, the degree of the slope also being considered.

Let us take width of box at once. In most cases it should not be less than six inches or more than nine, and the nearer we are able to get to the latter figure the better; otherwise we shall be bothered when we set out to give the fellow next door a shaking-up. We might feel satisfied with one row of plants if we were quite sure that he would not have more, but if we committed ourselves to so modest a plan we should be playing into his hands. No, we must have two rows at least, and good ones at that.

We may now consider the bottom of our box, which could have an inner width of seven inches, or of nine inches with the same 1-inch plank. How? By the way in which we attached the sides. We could either nail them along the edges, giving the full nine inches, or set them on the bottom, which would give us seven inches, 1-inch timber (deal) being used. The latter plan is perhaps the sounder, certainly it is if nails are skimped, and why should they be? The other will be perfectly safe, if nails are used freely.

But you tell me that depth is also affected. Of course it is; it may be eight inches or nine inches, according to the manner in which the sides are attached, 9-inch boards being understood as before. There is no need, however, to keep to 9-inch side boards, unless they are to be nailed on to a 9-inch base; if they are to be attached to the sides, they may be 10-inch, thus providing a box nine inches wide and the same deep, inside measure, which gives a very useful box indeed. I should be chary of making a larger unless

the sill were unusually wide and had a very slight rake. Given a narrow, steeply sloped sill, there would be constant danger of collapse with anything larger, however carefully the box were underpinned; and what satisfaction would there be in having a boxful of beauty on one evening in May if on the morning of the next the box were upside down on the ground?

Well, the box is in being, stiff and sound. Under pieces are there to take up the rake of the sill, thereby ensuring safe and level seating. All we have to do now is to fit in the ends and char the inside well with some lighted shavings, bore holes in the bottom for drainage, and either paint the front with two coats, or select such ornaments (virgin bark? tiles?) as we prefer for adorning its face.

Plants being left for the present, by no means to be forgotten, however, tubs come before us. Beware of constructing, unaided, large tubs such as you sometimes see on the terraces of large gardens, unless indeed you have learned the art of woodcraft, for the making of window-boxes is child's play in comparison. Better set a carpenter to work, or better still, make a splash of it and buy them. After all, half a dozen tubs, even quite classy tubs, cost less than a Rolls-Royce. But tubs up to say a bushel capacity of soil should not be outside the province of an amateur carpenter.

You can not only make use of tubs for conspicuous spots about the garden, but also for setting beside doorways to carry temporary creepers up the wall on a trellis at the entrance of the house. I foresee many temporary arrangements of this kind. I look, indeed, a little farther and find them giving so much pleasure that they become permanent amenities of the home.

Next there are hanging baskets. Why not such ornaments suspended in porches, thus adding a really delightful feature to the house entrance? A hook here and a hook there, plus the baskets, and homes are provided for other and perhaps different sets of plants. Most people will buy the baskets they require, and I can suppose many shapely and inexpensive receptacles being on offer soon by ironmongers or made prominent in the multiple shops which cater for the garden-loving public. The baskets are likely to be of wire and need a lining of moss to keep the soil in, but that is a small matter.

I have so little space left for selections of plants that I will leave that vitally important matter till the New Year, taking care, then, to recommend such kinds as can be brought into bloom in plenty of time. And if you groan "But what about bulbs?" I remind you that I have already told you to get plenty under way and that nearly all kinds can be transplanted at almost any time.

Bridge Forum

By NEVILLE HOBSON

TEMPERAMENTAL BRIDGE

HOW is this for an indictment? "Scratch Bridge players are temperamental and highly strung. Some of them are like naughty children."

Clearly no one occupying anything but a high and responsible position in the Bridge world dare have uttered such a charge, so it is not so surprising, after all, to record that this was the summing-up of Mr. A. E. Manning-Foster, the President of the British Bridge League, after spending a hectic week-end at Buxton, where the Autumn Congress of the league resulted in over one thousand players competing in the various tournaments.

"Bridge is a Game": This is the slogan of the British Bridge League, and the President is to be congratulated upon his determination to urge this ideal upon those who play Bridge.

Admittedly, temperament is a factor which is part of the "make-up" of many good players. Indeed, the phlegmatic and matter-of-fact individual rarely rises to the greatest heights at Bridge. A quick brain, a keen perception of the changing situations and powers of concentration are necessary, and these are frequently found in individuals who are highly strung.

Competitions: The factor which has most contributed to this lack of proportion is the extraordinary development of competitive Bridge. I recall vividly playing in the finals of a County Foursomes Tournament last year, and—after long experience of responsible professional and public work—I can honestly say that I felt the mental strain of the three and a quarter hours involved as much as anything I can recall. It was far worse than giving evidence before a Royal Commission—with all its responsibilities and anxieties.

This will afford to the local government official some idea of the "atmosphere" which permeated the proceedings. It was not so much the particular things which were said that bothered me, as the consciousness that everyone was on edge, and the majority of the players quickly became irritated with their partners. It is so easy—with the knowledge afforded by one's own hand—to see the best line of play in a certain situation.

When playing family Bridge, players seem to realise that this vital information is not available for their partners, and they react accordingly. Yet the same people will lose all their sense of fairness—and sometimes courtesy—merely because the winners of the particular tournament are to be hailed as the champions of Blankshire.

Frankly, I do not think that Mr. Manning-Foster's observations have any real application to Bridge as played by the majority of readers of this journal, but his strictures sound a warning note to any of us who may catch the more acute forms of "Bridge fever."



